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midweek
newspaper



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Top tips to help you feel good



TOWN PUTS ITS ART IN TO LAUNCH

A NEW arts project has been launched in Ramsgate with the aim of boosting the town's cultural scene.

Hopes are high that a large-scale festival due to be staged next year can give a shot in the arm to the town's arts scene and draw thousands of tourists in to the resort.

The Love Hate Hope Ramsgate event was held in an empty shop in the town last week as a precursor to the likely attractions of next summer.

The launch was designed to let the people of the town have their say on what they wanted to see included.

■ BY TOM BETTS

Over three days organisers also asked people to come into the old Lunn Poly shop in the High Street to detail what they loved and hated about Ramsgate, as well as asking for their hopes for its future.

Hundreds took part by filling out cards and pinning them on displays.

At the launch party, Sue Kennedy, chair of the Ramsgate Art Festival, said: "We want to promote local artists and hope to be able to facilitate a range of artists and activities that will really attract and inspire the people of

Ramsgate and beyond. That's what we are hoping for.

"This event is about saying we are here, that we are interested and want to see people getting involved."

The Ramsgate Arts Festival board members, who include former Doctor Who actress Janet Fielding, who played assistant Tegan opposite Peter Davidson and Tom Baker, are looking for a range of investors to put money in to the event.

A 10-minute film with a similar theme was also shown.

David Green, the Mayor of Ramsgate, launched the event and film. He

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



JOIN THE ILLUSION

Three local lasses can earn themselves £80 a day by taking part in a sideshow extravaganza.

If you've ever wanted to be a Headless Lady or a Girl in a Goldfish Bowl, now is the time to start your showgirl career.

As part of Thanet council's Dippers and Dunkers Festival, running from August 21-23 in Margate, Sideshow Illusions is looking for three isle girls who will be paid to become legless and headless.

Sideshow Illusions will be re-creating five original sideshows from the 1950s and 60s throughout the week running up to the festival.

Those interested can phone Heather Sawney on 01843 577428 or Jon Marshall on 07785260038 or visit www.dippersanddunkers.org.uk.

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WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Julie Maddocks visits St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury to see the Screen on the Green open-air cinema. **Search 'Screen'**



2 Two servicemen injured in Afghanistan compete in a 22-mile relay swim across the Channel. **Search 'Channel'**



3 Broadstairs Folk Week brought vast crowds of families and music-lovers to the town. **Search 'Folk'**

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CANNONING FOR CHARITY: From left, Stuart Goodship, Karl Goodship and Simon Hooper

Barcelona race tribute to Mum

BY EDDIE BURROWS

A GROUP of young men from the isle are embarking on a Cannonball Run challenge – with a big difference.

Each of the four teams must buy a car worth less than £300 to compete in the 900-mile event.

Four cars will leave the isle on Friday, September 11, to take part in Barcelona Bangers, which is a fingers-crossed homage to the Cannonball Run that sees Supercars compete.

The teams will get a ferry from Dover to Calais, drive through Brittany and Nantes and on to Biarritz before – hopefully – reaching their destination of Barcelona on Sunday, September 13.

Brothers Karl and Stuart Goodship, from Kingsgate, and brother-in-law Simon Hooper, from Broadstairs, took on the challenge with their friends to raise money for charity.

They will be joined by Tom Savill and James Allen, who will drive a Mercedes C200. James Peeling and Simon Palmer will be in a Peugeot 406 and Jason MacAnaspie and Gary Slater will be in a Ford Escort Cabriolet.

They are all raising money for The Eve Appeal, a charity that funds research into gynaecological cancers.

Karl and Stuart's mother Lyn died in December, aged 58, from ovarian cancer. She had expressed her wish that money be raised to fund research into the cancer to help other women.

Karl, 30, said: "We decided to take part in Barcelona Bangers because it sounded like a great challenge, a way to have fun and to raise money."

The trio have yet to find a car with a £300 maximum price-tag that they hope will get them to Barcelona.

Karl said: "We haven't found anything that is mechanically sound that could do the job, but there's still time."

"It's important to us that we raise as much money as we can. The research carried out by The Eve Appeal and Professor Ian Jacobs, who treated Mum, is imperative in achieving earlier diagnosis and treatments for gynaecological cancers."

Stuart, 26, said: "Mum was determined and courageous throughout her illness and she fought it with great dignity. She never wanted another woman, or their family, to have to go through what she and her loved ones have."

If they raise £1,000 in 12 months a plaque will be placed at the research centre in memory of their mother.

Along the route the teams will face daily 'methodical' challenges and the team with the most points at the end of each day will be given a prize.

The team with the most points overall when they reach Barcelona will receive the grand prize. Collecting the points is not given to those who get to the next stage the fastest, but to the driver and passengers who complete the challenges.

• To sponsor panels on the cars or to make a donation, see www.justgiving.com/Karl-Goodship or phone 01843 602190 or 07966 495 804. The team also have a Facebook group page with updates where news, photos and videos will be loaded. The group page is Thanet Boys Barcelona Bangers Tour.

For more about The Eve Appeal, visit www.eveappeal.org.uk.

• See Yourthanet.co.uk for more on this story.

yourthanet
NEWS IN BRIEF

Come and take a trip down memory lane

MR RAMSGATE Ralph Hoult has launched another series of talks on the town's history.

Taking place on the third Tuesday of the month, the talks are in a series of 24. They begin at 10.30am at the Granville Theatre and cost £3.50. Old photographs and film will be shown.

Mr Hoult, the deputy mayor of the town, said: "You will be reminded of many amazing things you have long since forgotten, or you might learn something new about this historical and wonderful place."

Year of work in park ends in child's play

A PLAYGROUND in Westgate-on-Sea has been refurbished and officially reopened.

New slides, climbing frames, roundabout, springy rockers and a new ball court are just some of the additions to the area in Lymington Road following a year of works.

Funding of more than £135,000 was achieved to fund the project; this came from the Big Lottery Play, Millwood Homes, Kent County Council Community Fund, Thanet council and ward councillor allocations.

Help with hearing aid

HI KENT, the local charity that works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing, is running another of its free aftercare clinics for hearing-aid users in Ramsgate.

People with NHS hearing aids can get their aids cleaned and retubed and collect fresh batteries for free. Advice is also offered.

The next clinic takes place on Tuesday, August 25, from 10.30am to 11am at Age Concern, Meeting Street, Ramsgate.

Bite into good food

A NEW summer food market is coming to Margate.

The best of local food will be on offer in the Old Town on Saturday, August 29, from 11am to 4pm.

The market begins outside the Visitors Information Centre, running down Duke Street and in to Market Place. To host a stall yourself, email louise.oldfield@gmail.com.

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Art SOS to raise funds for war against stress

Charity supports combat veterans

■ BY TOM BETTS

A GULF War veteran is putting on an exhibition of his work in Margate next month.

It is to raise awareness and money for an organisation which helps troubled soldiers deal with combat and conflict-related stress, a situation the artist knows only too well.

Glenn Fitzpatrick's collection of ten works will be shown at the Community Pharmacy Gallery in Market Place.

The work looks at the difficulty many servicemen and women have integrating themselves back into society once their role in the Services has come to an end.

The exhibition is entitled Symbols of Society S.O.S and begins on Wednesday, September 9.

Mr Fitzpatrick, from Canterbury, served with the Irish Hussars in the first Gulf War and drove a military ambulance during the conflict in 1991. He was aged just 19 at the time.

He said: "My work examines how hard it is for many of us to rejoin society against a background of current issues.

"I saw some truly horrendous and horrific



CONFLICT: War veteran Glenn Fitzpatrick is holding an exhibition of his art in support of the Combat Stress charity

things that broke my heart and had trouble clearing them from my mind.

"I was a tracked ambulance driver and saw more than my fair share of blood.

"When I first came out of the Army I was still dreaming about it and found it all very hard to shake."

The exhibition comprises eight A1-size drawings in pen and two sculptures.

Glenn, 38, decided to rekindle a love of art following the war to help him express his feelings.

He said: "I enrolled in a university after the Army. I did numerous jobs, but art was the only



thing I was ever good at. To go back in to education was hard.

"I was often on the back foot with everyone and thought 'Here we go again'."

Admission to the exhibition will be free and Mr Fitzpatrick will donate the money from any work he sells to the charity Combat Stress.

He said: "I used to be a client of theirs. They helped me when I was at rock-bottom. I was a lost soul in ill-health and I saw the light at the end of the tunnel. They are a wonderful organisation and I hope this will help draw other soldiers' attention to it."

Bonus show from the Red Arrows

THE RAF's aerobatic display team the Red Arrows delighted Isle residents at the weekend with thrilling displays.

For two days the team was based at Kent International Airport while carrying out displays at Eastbourne International Airport. Pilots tore through the air practicing and rehearsing their displays, giving a treat to those nearby.

Airport chief executive Matt Clarke said: "It's always fantastic to host the Red Arrows as they are an iconic display team that excites people of all ages.

"Although they were officially performing in Eastbourne, people in Thanet did not miss out as they were treated to a mini-display whenever the Red Arrows flew in or out. It seems the pilots can't help putting on a show."

Two RAF Typhoons and two F-16s from the Dutch air force also used the Manston airport as a base while the airshow was running from Thursday to Sunday.

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Alex Hughes sings Georgia On My Mind. Search 'Hughes'

Bringing art together for festival fun

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

said: "It's pleasing to see so many people here and that so many have taken part.

"The thing I hate is the few cynics in the town who say things can't be done.

He added: "There is so much talent in the town and it has been crying out to be brought together by events like this for the benefit of the town.

"I hope the festival reflects what Ramsgate is about and also can be sustained for the future.

"I applaud the group for choosing this format, to consult with people right from the start. I do think it is the way to grow an event."

Laura Sandys, the Conservative parliamentary candidate for Thanet South, attended the launch.

She said: "The group who have driven this project forward have been extremely innovative in bringing Ramsgate's creativity alive, engaging the residents and working with the community.

"They need all our support to make the Ramsgate Arts Festival a real success."

To tell organisers your views on Ramsgate creativity and arts, email ramsgateartsfestival@gmail.com.

High streets to be made up with cash to fill empty shops

THE Isle's many empty shops could receive a makeover to make them less unattractive.

A Government scheme aiming to help areas hit by the recession has challenged councils to find creative ways to use empty and abandoned shops in town centres. Some could be turned from eyesores to places of benefit for the community.

Thanet was one of 57 areas designated to receive £52,632 from the Government and is the only area of Kent that has been included.

It is hoped that where unused spaces now stand, useful projects such as meeting places, learning centres or even show rooms and galleries for local artists will emerge to make the premises more appealing.

Funding was allocated to the bottom third most deprived local authority areas, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, and the highest vacancy rates.

Thanet council will use the money as it sees fit, but Dave Green, the Mayor of Ramgate, is calling for peo-

ple with constructive ideas to come forward and wants to see the authority set up a competition across Thanet for the funds, with the grant being awarded to the most imaginative ideas.

John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, said: "We know the downturn has really hurt high streets in areas of high deprivation across England.

"These grants will help to transform and reopen empty shops as part of our help to keep town centres vibrant and combat the recession.

"Those councils will now be able to use our funding to come up with their own creative ideas to transform their boarded-up shops into something useful."

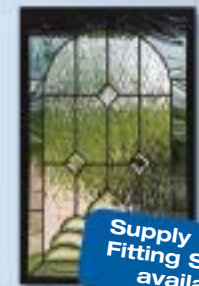
Dr Steve Ladyman, Labour MP for Thanet South, said: "This is a helping hand for our high street.

"Boarded-up shops can undermine business confidence, but opening them up for other uses makes sense and thriving business can sometimes spring from these opportunities."

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Toys are us as isle kindness helps boy

DONATIONS of cuddly toys have been flying in to the Wheels 4 Ralph campaign at collection points across the isle.

The two-year-old from Minster suffers from nemaline myopathy, which makes it extremely difficult to move around and leave the house.

His family are trying to raise £35,000 to buy a vehicle that will support his life-support systems so they can take him out and about.

Cuddly toys can be donated to be used as prizes in raffles to raise funds.

Drop-off points include Alpha Carpets in Birchington, the Westgate Pavilion and The Granville Theatre in Ramsgate.

Turner gallery to be artist's inspiration

AS the Turner Contemporary gallery continues to take shape in Margate, one artist will be keeping a close eye on progress.

Ramsgate artist Grace Ayson will be capturing the building work in charcoal drawings commissioned to document the building.

Ms Ayson studied fine art at the Kent Institute of Art and Design and her work is part of the Turner Contemporary Open exhibition, which showcases work from artists across the county. She will begin her project in September.

Turner Contemporary head of exhibitions Sarah Martin said: "We are delighted that Grace Ayson will be documenting the development of the new Turner Contemporary gallery building.

"The commission acknowledges the importance of drawing as a medium to JMW Turner, who made frequent visits to Margate."

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Take pride in the Dolly Rockers at Margate. Search 'Dolly'

Hospitals trust rakes in cool £1 million for car-parking

■ BY TOM BETTS

EAST Kent Hospitals Trust has been highlighted in a survey by consumer magazine Which? following an investigation into parking charges.

The magazine discovered that four hospital trusts out of 25 surveyed made more than £1 million in profit alone charging staff, visitors and patients to park.

Among those was East Kent Hospitals, which made £1.02 million, a 175 per cent profit margin.

The consumer magazine asked for the data from the 25 largest hospital trusts in England under the Freedom of Information Act.

Which? says that hospital trusts have to charge for car-parking space to ensure resources are not diverted from health care. But it questions the need for such large profit margins.

Claire Lilley, health policy adviser with Which?, said: "Our research shows high charges don't always result in high profits but where they do, these charges should be reduced."

Chris Hurley, head of operational estates for the East Kent University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The car-parking charges at our hospitals pay for the car-parking running costs such as maintenance, lighting, CCTV, car-park attendants, administration costs and capital charges.

"If car-parking was provided free, then we would be faced with costs of hundreds of thousands of pounds – money which would have to come from our patient care budget.

"For example, the trust recently spent around £265,000 to build a car-park extension at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

"Under the present system this kind of expenditure is paid for and all surplus income is spent on patient care.

"Our charges are among the lowest among South East hospitals and we also provide weekly season tickets for around £10 for those who

need to come to the hospital to visit relatives or for treatment frequently.

"There are also special arrangements in place for regular attendees and our free-at-the-point-of-use in-house patient transport service makes around 750,000 journeys a year carrying patients to and from hospital."

John Fletcher is governor of Kent Link, which looks at ways of improving health care.

He said: "We are well aware of the problems of car-parking. But money raised goes in to the actual running of the hospitals concerned and if this was not available it would have to be obtained from elsewhere. It all goes into the pot."

Norman Lamb, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said: "Some NHS hospitals are making a staggering amount of money from car-parking charges, and many are still not offering real discounts to those with chronic illnesses.

"Hospitals should be able to cover their costs, but they shouldn't be allowed to use hidden charges to get themselves out of financial black holes. This amounts to a tax on the sick."

3rd FLOOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST SWINE FLUE

SNEEZING

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COMMUTERS, AWAY WITH YOUR GERMS

Thanet council staff have removed a sign that was on public display in its offices after it was deemed to be "inappropriate".

The sign, a warning to staff on the third floor to be watchful of swine flu, was on the same level as the council chamber, where members of the public can attend meetings.

In what appeared to be a dig at people on the isle who travel by bus and train, it said "Travel on public transport or not. Wash your hands when you come in. Keep them clean (Even without swine flu the germs on commuters is pretty awful)".

A Yourthanet reporter noticed the sign, which was attached to a door, after a meeting of the full council.

The sign's grammar was poor, while the mystery health expert had even spelt 'flu' as 'flue'.

A Thanet council spokeswoman said: "The sign was not authorised by anyone and has been taken down.

"The sign was inappropriate," she said.

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Church 'a great asset for town' after facelift

A HISTORIC Cliftonville church has been treated to a handsome facelift.

The Grade II-listed St Michael and St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church in Northdown Road has been renovated to the tune of £385,000.

English Heritage supplied the money to repair the tower-roof tiling and the main roof slopes, where accessible from scaffolding.

There was also a rebuilding of the east and west belfry openings, replacement of lost elements of the rose window and remaking of defective parts of the south windows.

Part-replacement and repointing of the south transept copings was carried out, along with masonry repairs to the tracery and mullions to the south transept and rose window and upgrading of lightning protection.

The project architect was Robert George, the quantity surveyors were DR Nolans and the main contractor was Universal Stone.

Cliftonville ward councillor Clive Hart was keen to praise the work.

Backdrop

He said: "The church building now looks absolutely marvellous. The standard of workmanship appears very high and the end result is a gleaming, newly-renovated asset for Cliftonville."

"All credit to the church for giving us a wonderfully-refurbished backdrop to Northdown Road."

The church was built between 1876-8 to the designs of local architects Drewe & Bower as St Stephen's Methodist Church.

The tower was added in 1886 and the plot of land to the south-east was acquired the following year for the addition of a school, which was never built.

In 1997 the dwindling congregation, faced with repairs to the tower estimated at £100,000, considered demolishing the tower, but when it became clear that planning permission for this would not be forthcoming the building was sold to the Coptic Orthodox Church in 1999.

Margate receives large numbers of refugees from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt, Iraq, Romania and Russia.

Many are housed in local hotels while their claims for asylum are assessed, and the church has made a practice of liaising with

■ BY TOM BETTS



GLEAMING: The repaired church in Northdown Road

the hotels and offers assistance to refugees who need Arabic speakers to interpret for them and help them to integrate into British life.

The church also offers spiritual support for refugees of any faith or none and free meals at weekends.

The money was made available through English Heritage's Repair Grants For Places Of Worship scheme.

arrange a direct debit for their council tax.

"When asking for any personal information, council officers will always ask a number of security questions and if residents are worried they can call the council tax team back on 01843 577558."

Simon Moores, cabinet member for customer services, said: "Anyone who receives a call they believe to be suspicious should not give out any personal information."

"While the numbers of people reporting a suspected call have been relatively low, it is important to make sure our customers are as vigilant as possible."

To report a suspected scam, phone Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

yourthanet

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trip to promote tourism

THE isle's tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses are being offered the chance to send members of staff on an 'Out and About' trip as part of a Celebrating Kent campaign.

Organised by Visit Kent at the county council, the trip, which costs £10 per person, is designed to help industry staff swot up on local attractions.

It will start with a guided tour of the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex House and then visit the Pinball Parlour, Thanet Coast Project sites and Theatre Royal Margate.

Refreshments during the day will include lunch at Harveys Crab & Oyster House in Ramsgate and a cream tea at the Walpole Hotel and Museum in Cliftonville.

The excursion, on Thursday, September 3, has been arranged and funded by Visit Kent in partnership with Thanet council.

For details, call Visit Kent on 01622 696936 or email celebratingkent@kent.gov.uk.

Petition to save building

A CAMPAIGN to "save Albion House for the people of Ramsgate" is collecting signatures in Ramsgate town centre on market days.

Artist Ruth Cousens, who is leading the campaign, said: "Albion House was given to the mayor, aldermen and burgesses of the people of Ramsgate in 1900 and many people are angry that such a historic building might be sold or split into flats."

The Ramsgate Society, Eastcliff Residents Association and the Conservation Area Advisory Group have written to Thanet council expressing their concerns.

Show captures memories

AN EXHIBITION of photographs, flower-arranging and wedding dresses will be on display in Ramsgate next week.

The show, called All You Ever Wanted: Beautiful Memories Should Be Captured, is in Victoria Parade between the Toll Gate kiosk and Granville Theatre from 1pm-4pm on Tuesday, August 25.

Ramsgate artist Corrine Heady is the woman behind the show, which is being put on with assistance from town councillor Gerry O'Donnell, of Ramsgate First.

There will also be performances and the chance to meet the artist.

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A service charge may be applicable on certain shows - please check with the box office

Council tax phone scam warning

PEOPLE on the isle have been targeted by telephone conmen claiming to be council officers collecting unpaid council tax.

Thanet council has been alerted to the scam by the Local Government Chronicle after incidents were reported by residents.

People answering the calls are told they have either paid too much council tax and are entitled to a rebate, or not enough and must pay more or face being fined.

The caller then asks for bank details after pretending to work for Kent County Council or Thanet District Council.

A council spokeswoman said: "The only time Thanet council would ask customers for full bank details on the phone is to

arrange a direct debit for their council tax.

"When asking for any personal information, council officers will always ask a number of security questions and if residents are worried they can call the council tax team back on 01843 577558."

Simon Moores, cabinet member for customer services, said: "Anyone who receives a call they believe to be suspicious should not give out any personal information."

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To report a suspected scam, phone Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

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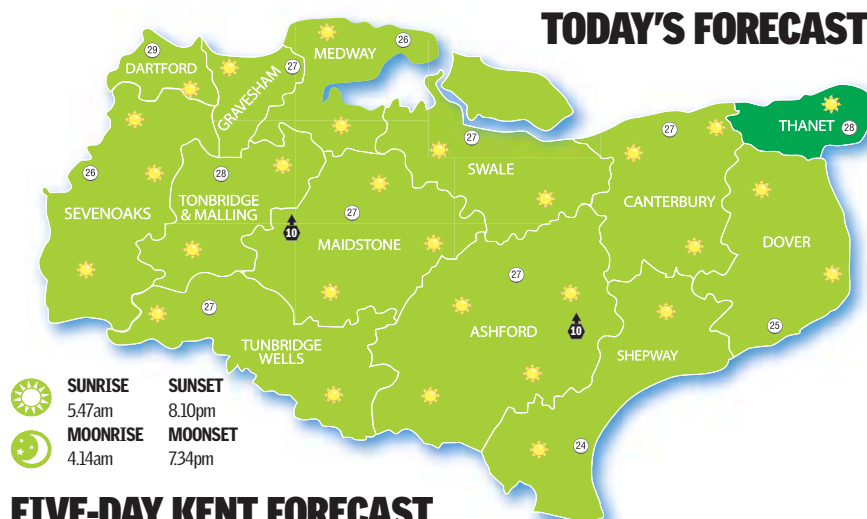
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yourweather

WEATHER UPDATES 24 HOURS A DAY @ www.kentnews.co.uk



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:53pm	6.5m
	Sunday	3:34pm	6.5m
Dover	Saturday	1:12pm	7.1m
	Sunday	1:52pm	7.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:11pm	8.2m
	Sunday	1:51pm	8.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:42pm	5.4m
	Sunday	2:22pm	5.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:43pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:24pm	6.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:51pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:32pm	5.6m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	23°C	27°C	22°C	20°C	20°C	Gravesend	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C
Canterbury	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C	Maidstone	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	20°C
Chatham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Ramsgate	24°C	28°C	23°C	21°C	21°C
Dartford	25°C	28°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Dover	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Sevenoaks	23°C	26°C	20°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C
Folkestone	22°C	25°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Tonbridge	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C
Gillingham	23°C	26°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	Tun Wells	24°C	27°C	21°C	20°C	20°C

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	21°C	Madrid	36°C
Athens	31°C	New York	32°C
Barcelona	30°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	25°C	Rome	30°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	21°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	19°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	28°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	11°C

Airport reports freight increase

KENT International Airport bosses have announced that the amount of cargo handled at the site last month hit an all-time high. During July a total of 3,467 tonnes of freight passed through the airport, surpassing the previous best for July of 3,248 tonnes, which was set in 2003.

And from April to July the freight tonnage at KIA has increased by 64 per cent on last year. The majority of the freight is fruit and vegetables from Kenya and Ghana. KIA chief executive Matt Clarke said KIA was bucking the trend in the industry. He said: "These results highlight the resilience of the freight business at KIA. In a time many are describing as a crisis for aviation, we have experienced steady growth as cost-conscious airlines seek out facilities that can deliver value for money and operational advantages over congested hub airports."

Competitive

Nico LeRoux, freight development manager for Infratil Airports, said: "The industry is very price-sensitive and we are able to offer competitive pricing for specialised freight-handling facilities."

The airport's management says new ground-support vehicles, such as a fleet of Doosan forklift trucks that unload freight from planes, have also helped attract new business.

But not everyone is so convinced. Steve Higgins, of the Stop Manston Expansion Group (SMEG), said: "Manston's passenger numbers have fallen by 45 per cent over the same period, which means Manston's revenue is becoming reliant on flying in imported food which could be grown in Kent or close by in Europe. It may provide shareholder value in the short term, but it's unsustainable in the long term."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

FIONA WISEMAN



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I am a fully-qualified social-worker and have a masters degree in social care from Hull University, where I specialised in palliative and adult care. I was the first social-worker to be based in a cancer services team in a Kent hospital, have now been a social-worker for more than ten years and became Macmillan's senior social-work practitioner in July. I have worked as the social-worker within the cancer services team at Medway Maritime Hospital for eight years and have also worked as a social-worker at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury, so I have experience of supporting a range of cancer patients.

Q Tell us about your role

A I work with any cancer patient, their family, carers and friends in the early stages of their cancer diagnosis to meet their emotional and practical needs. Social needs are equally as important to address as health problems.

Q How can you help them?

A A cancer diagnosis can have a huge impact on families emotionally, practically and financially. Most cancer patients I see would be ineligible for a local authority social-worker, so I provide an important service to many patients who would otherwise not

receive this kind of social support. Through my access to resources and specialist advice, I can give patients detailed knowledge and expertise about things like benefits, grants and housing.

Q How do people diagnosed with cancer get put in touch with you?

A Macmillan's clinical nurse specialists refer patients to me and I have around 70 patients on my caseload. I see patients either at home or in hospital.

Q What financial help can Macmillan provide for cancer patients?

A Financial problems can be a huge heartache for families and some cancer patients refuse treatment until these issues are resolved. Carers and patients may have to cut their working hours or stop work completely. To help patients with the financial impact of cancer, I help with applications for benefits and grants, such as Macmillan's financial grants scheme.

More and more patients are applying for financial grants to pay for things like utility bills, so they're invaluable. Grants can also be used for things to help improve a person's quality of life. For example, I recently successfully applied for a grant that helped a female cancer patient buy some exercise equipment to help her feel better about herself and build her self-esteem. I also secured a grant for a man undergoing dialysis who needed a low table so he

could receive treatment more comfortably at home. Grants have been given to some patients so they can do a course and gain confidence before returning to work. I also help families budget and help them apply for schemes such as the blue badge for disabled drivers.

Q Do you also act as a counsellor for cancer victims and their families?

A Providing emotional support is a key part of what I do. Families can feel quite helpless when a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis – they often feel a lack of control. Couples may not be talking to one another and will need a safe, open environment to open up and start communicating again. The counselling is flexible – some families may have a one-off appointment, others have regular sessions.

Q Why are Macmillan professionals needed and should the NHS be supporting patients better?

A Patients often tell me that being supported by someone not medically orientated really helps. I will explain the treatment in simple terms and clarify confusing terminology, for example explaining terms like a domiciliary nurse or what care is provided by a hospice.

We are now recruiting another Macmillan social-worker who will be part of Medway Maritime's new Positive Living Team. I am proud to be part of a Macmillan professional team that provides a holistic patient experience and improves the lives of cancer patients.

Q & A

The senior social-work practitioner for Macmillan Cancer Support in Kent spoke to **Jon Coates** about the variety of ways the charity's professionals can help cancer victims and their families across the county

The Promenade

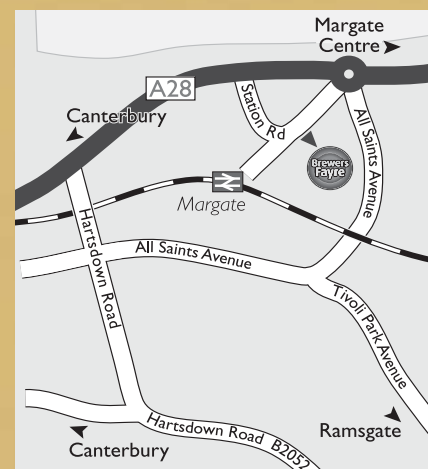
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RAISING A GLASS: Richard Balfour-Lynn, winner of the Regional Trophy at the Decanter World Wine Awards

It's a vine time to be a Kentish wine producer

FOUR Kent vineyards were popping the corks after doing well at this year's Decanter World Wine Awards.

While Bordeaux, Champagne and even Chablis, may spring to mind when considering the best wines in the world, it seems Cranbrook and Tenterden need to be added to the list.

The organisers of the most influential and prestigious wine competition in the world, said the Kent winemakers have put the county on the global wine map.

The awards attracted more entries from producers across the globe than ever before, yet despite the increased competition four Kentish wineries scooped an impressive nine awards between them, including the much-sought after Regional Trophy.

The Chapel Down Winery in Tenterden scooped five medals.

They were two bronzes for its Rosé Brut NV and Pinot Reserve 2004, plus three that were commended. They were Century Extra Dry NV, plus Brut NV and Bacchus Reserve 2007.

Boss Guy Tresnan said: "We are delighted to have been recognised for the quality of our wines, particularly as these awards are international. After the announcement we got calls from around the world from potential trade customers and consumers, genuinely engaged by what we are doing here in the heart of the Kent."

Meopham Valley was awarded a commendation for its Brut 2004, and a bronze for its Rosé Brut 2005. Owner David Grey said: "This year's success validates our wines internationally as well as validating them to our consumers."

Gusbourne Estate Vineyard in Ashford took

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

a bronze award for the Classic Blend 2006.

And Hush Heath Manor in Cranbrook won a Regional Trophy for its Balfour Brut Rosé.

Richard Balfour-Lynn, producer at Hush Heath, said: "We all feel enormous pride at winning the Decanter World Wine gold medal and trophy. This gives the whole team involved with Balfour Brut Rosé a huge boost and provides the encouragement to know that we are on the right track in creating an English pink fizz that can compete with the best French Rosé Champagnes."

"The passion with which we grow our grapes and make our wine, combined with enormous attention to detail, has led to us winning this prestigious award."

Christelle Guibert, Decanter's tastings director said it was a great result for the county.

She said: "This is a fantastic result for UK wines and further proof, should anyone need it, that home-produced bottles can compete at an international level."

"The raft of awards for England and Wales this year is testament to the world-class quality of locally produced wines. It is a delight to be able to showcase them in our globally recognised competition."

Kent did so well it has helped convince the chairman of the awards, Steven Spurrier and his wife Bella, to pick the region to embark on their very own vineyard.

Mr Spurrier recognises the value of the Decanter World Wine Awards for UK vineyards, and said: "I feel this year the awards have moved from being a successful wine competition into an arena where it is a beacon for wine all around the world."

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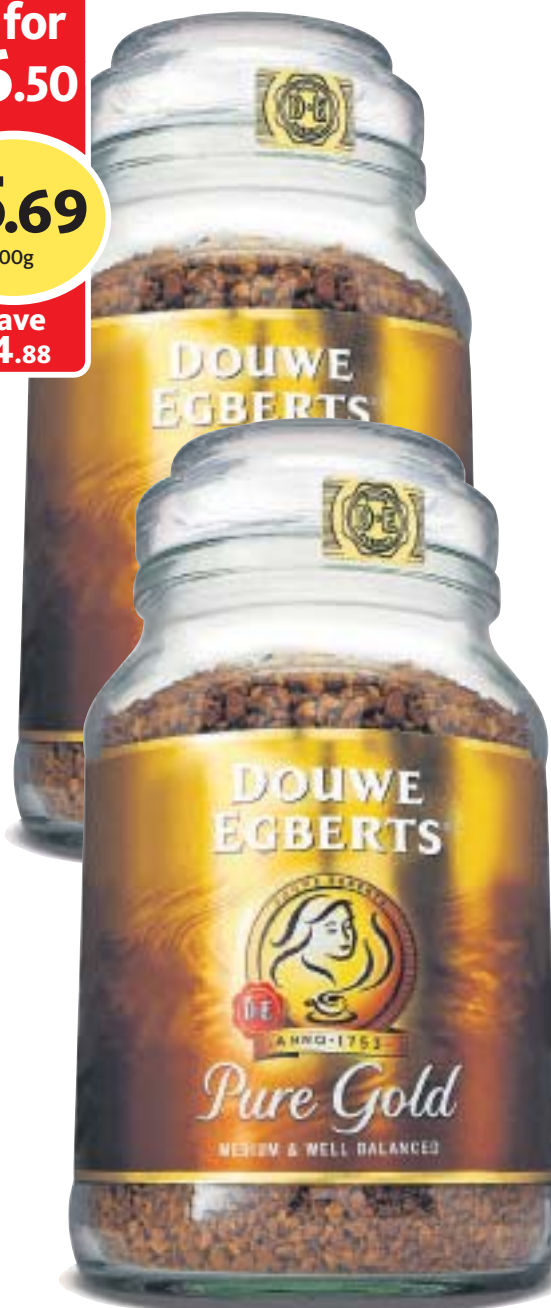
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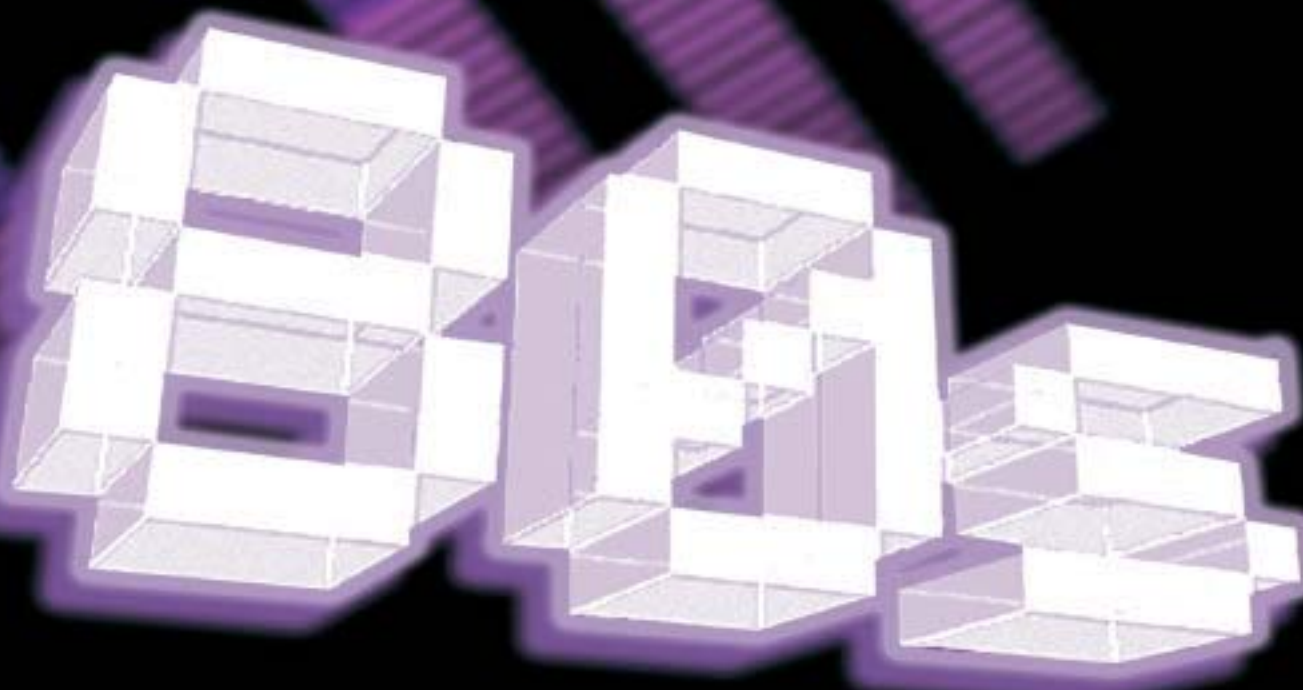
IT is one of the biggest events in Kent's apple calendar and this year's Cider Festival lurks just around the corner.

Apple-fuelled events will start at Brogdale Farm on September 19. With more than 98 cider apples and 20 perry pears in the National Fruit Collection, there promises to be an array of different tipples to taste and buy.

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KOS Campaign 2009

It should also be a great day out for all the family, with cooking demonstrations, tours of the National Fruit Collection, live music,

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Tamiflu risks outweighed by benefits, urges doctor

CHILDREN with severe swine flu who do not take Tamiflu could face serious complications and even death, a leading family doctor has warned parents.

The antiviral medicine has been mired in controversy after two studies found more than half of youngsters who took the drug suffered side effects such as nausea and nightmares.

Another study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) suggested antiviral medication does not prevent complications, such as pneumonia and severe asthma, in children with flu.

But Dr Caroline Jessel, deputy medical director at NHS West Kent, urged parents to continue giving Tamiflu and other antivirals to their children if they are prescribed.

"If the child was quite unwell and I was a parent, then the risk of taking them is less than the risk of not taking Tamiflu and getting really ill with swine flu," she said.

Asked if there was a danger in parents not giving their children antivirals due to fears over side-effects, Dr Jessel said: "I think it would not be sensible to withhold it, particularly where they are severely affected."

"Some of the complications may well be prevented and the complications may be more severe and longer in duration [if Tamiflu is not taken]."

She said the number of patients being prescribed Tamiflu had fallen significantly in recent weeks, but the virus has not disappeared, she warned. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent also said that the number of people with swine flu-like symptoms in its area had also decreased over the past week.

BY JENNA PUDELEK

"The research has thrown a different perspective on Tamiflu and helped us to understand its impact better," Dr Jessel added.

"It is not really relevant in a flu pandemic because it is based on seasonal flu. It is interesting but not necessarily going to change the advice."

"Our advice is still relatively straight forward – if symptoms are quite severe, obviously they need help and it is effective in reducing the duration and symptoms of the swine flu. For very mild cases it has always been the case not to give antivirals."

Matthew Thompson, author of the BMJ study, told New Scientist: "It may be worth the DoH taking the new research on board and perhaps having a more targeted approach to the use of antivirals, or urgently conducting randomised controlled trials of children and adults to identify whether there are subgroups of children who will benefit from antivirals."

Healthy children and babies under six months old will not be among those given the vaccine against swine flu, the Government has announced.

A mass immunisation campaign, which will target more than 11 million people, focused on those whose underlying health conditions put them at risk from the pandemic, will begin in October. The DoH said preparations were also being made to extend the programme.

Children have not been included in the first wave of vaccinations because although they are disproportionately affected by the virus, the vast majority make a full recovery.



GPs back access to records

DOCTORS in the county have supported proposals to allow the public to view and amend their medical records online.

The suggestion, put forward by the Conservatives this week, is part of plans to give patients more control over their records.

Patients would be able to log in online to access their records, add details and share experiences with other patients.

It would also provide a resource for those who have to monitor conditions on a daily basis, who could record their findings to produce a detailed record for their doctor.

Dr Mike Parks, from the Kent Local Medical Committee, said this resource would help doctors and patients alike.

"Importantly, for patients and doctors, it would also ensure medical information is up-to-date and correct," he said.

"But there would need to be some very careful safeguards in place."

It is hoped that by making access easier through the use of the internet, patients would be more likely to update their details in cases where they may normally wait until a visit to their GP.

Currently, patients have the rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 to inspect medical records. However, access often has to be applied for in writing first of all, with a payment usually required, £10 for computerised records or £50 for manual records.

Fears of poor wheat harvest

FARMERS across the county are bracing themselves for another potentially devastating wheat harvest that could cost the industry millions of pounds.

The recent poor weather has defied predictions of "a barbecue summer" and left many farmers fearing big losses.

Last year's harvest was dubbed "the worst in living memory" according to Kent's National Farmers' Union chairman Kevin Attwood.

The Downcourt Farm manager from Doddington, near Faversham, expressed concern that a repeat of 2008's harvests would have major implications.

He said: "It will make life very difficult for farmers if wheat crops are too wet and can't be used for milling."

"This means the value of them drops by 40 per cent from £130 a tonne to £90 a tonne and



they have to be used for animal feed. Wet wheat has to be dried artificially which also adds to farmers' costs considerably."

Sandra Nichols, NFU South East policy advisor shared his concerns over this season's crops – she believed the next few weeks would prove critical.

She said: "Last year's harvest in particular was very bad. With the added costs of replacing machinery and equipment, things have been very tough."



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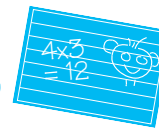
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BREAK TIME

Jeremy returns to uni that helped him

GILLINGHAM graduate Jeremy Allison is set to train as a teacher after completing a degree in business administration.

The 26-year-old, who has MS, battled against his condition to gain a 2:1 qualification at the University of Greenwich.

He has now re-enrolled at the university on a post-graduate certificate of education course.

Jeremy said Greenwich played a large role in helping him complete his degree.

"I was studying there in 2003 when I fell ill and had to give up my degree.

"Four years later I was able to resume my course and the university was very good about allowing me to do this.

"I found it very tiring commuting to Greenwich from Gillingham every day. But the university transferred me to study at Medway. The tutors were very supportive without making a fuss."



TEACHER-TRAINING: Jeremy Allison

Your future is clear

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

WOULD-BE university students who want to take on courses at the start of the next academic year are being urged to apply through the clearing process.

The University of Greenwich is inviting learners to get in touch with the further-education provider before the new term begins in September.

Head of recruitment Bev Woodhams said: "This is Clearing – the summer months when you can apply directly to the university for a place this year.

"There are lots of interesting courses, from environmental science through to media and tourism.

"We take on 5,000 students every year from



grade-A A-level students through to people of all ages without formal qualifications.

"There is a range of different ways in, from full-time foundation degrees to part-time short courses. The best thing to do is to talk to us

and find out what's possible. So, whatever your age or previous qualifications, if you've got it in you to study at a higher level, go on the website at www.gre.ac.uk or give us a ring on our hotline on 0800 005 006."

BEV'S TOP 10 TIPS:

1 **Keep calm:** There are still places at lots of universities. Extra places were created this year, so although more people are applying, there will be vacancies on many courses.

2 **Check original choices first:** If you just missed your required grades, don't despair. Contact your first-choice university and it may still offer you a place. If not, check out your second choice.

3 **Be positive:** If neither institution will confirm their offer, you are now a Clearing Applicant. You can call any higher-education institution in the UK directly and ask if it will accept you on to a particular course with the qualifications you have.

4 **Do your research:** Don't panic and take the

first vacancy you see. The decision you make now will affect several years of your life. Search the papers and university websites for courses you are interested in and check their entry criteria. If you have the grades or points they require, or you are close, give them a call.

5 **Be prepared:** Before you phone, make a list of questions. Ask if you can speak to an academic (one of the teaching staff) about the course. Ensure you have the results of both your recent exams and your GCSEs to hand. Give several universities a ring to see what they can offer.

6 **Check it out:** Make time to visit. If you are serious about studying somewhere, you need to know what it's like. You wouldn't buy a pair of shoes without trying them on, would you? Attend the open day or ask to arrange a visit.

7 **Are you sure?** Have you achieved better grades than expected, or changed your mind about the offer you hold? This year UCAS has introduced a five-day 'adjustment period' from Thursday, August 20. You can shop around, safe in the knowledge that if you don't find a place you prefer elsewhere, you still have your original offer.

8 **Money, money, money:** Have you applied for all the money you're entitled to? What bursaries and scholarships are on offer? Each year a huge amount goes unclaimed. This is free money, so do research and see what's on offer.

9 **Push the (TRACK) button:** Once you are sure where and what you are going to study, you must confirm your decision online using UCAS Track. UCAS will let the institution know your decision.

10 **Start getting excited:** You are about to take your learning to another level, meet new people and have loads of new opportunities. Welcome to higher education.



GOOD ADVICE: Bev Woodhams

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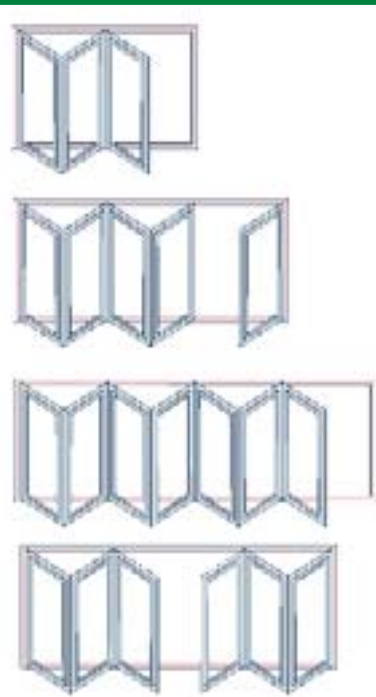
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yourthanetblogger

Isle councillor Chris Wells responds to the public moans of a disappointed staycationer



We don't require approval of chattering media types

MY, how the chattering classes like the sound of their own voices – and hate mixing with the rest of us.

Rachel Cooke's recent visit to Broadstairs, immortalised in The Observer on August 9, could not be truly called a success. Her despair at not finding the holiday of her dreams was laid bare for all to read, as was her ability to blame anyone but herself for her predicament.

It was hardly a failure for her literary career, and even got her on to Radio 4, so even more people could hear her bemoan establishments and services she had never met and could not find.

Fresh fish cooked to order, not available here in Broadstairs? Award-winning, beautifully-made ice-cream, not available in Broadstairs? Delightful coffee shops, not available?

Not quite true, but it mattered little because at home, listening and keenly feeling her plight, the suburban middle classes could understand

her pain at having to slum it here in Britain with the rest of us this recession-driven summer.

All over Surbiton, Islington and Camden, there would be wise nodding of heads and deep sighs for the forbidden beauties of the south of France. What decimated bonuses had not taken, the exchange rate with the euro had finished off.

It seems to me that reluctant staycation visitors arrive without the necessary open mind to enjoy their stay. The gruffness which in France would be called local colour becomes poor service here, not because it is worse but because it is derided as second-best before they arrive.

Many seem to believe we should be grateful they have staycated here and should be treated like royalty for their sacrifice.

There are few places on the south coast that can boast ice-cream parlours as good as those in Broadstairs; few places that can offer such a range of eating and drinking establishments, crowded together in a short strip. But it's not posh, if it ever was. It is rather genteel and raff-

ish. It is Broadstairs, where some of the great seaside traditions, from Mr Punch to beach huts and tea on the sands, have survived the package holiday and remain to be secretly, though not always quietly, enjoyed by all.

And there's the key. Enjoyed by all. I suspect there is a little snobbery in this article, upon the writer discovering what the rest of us mere mortals know: holidaying at home is not necessarily cheaper than jetting off.

It is a matter of taste. I doubt this will change Guardian-reading chattering-class minds.

Perhaps the chatters should get out more and understand better what life is all about for the rest of us pros. I doubt it will catch on. Guardian-readers and BBC types only truly like mixing and doing business with each other; up in Whitstable, in Islington by the sea, while pretending they are really in Corfu.

Dream on, Rachel, but keep your dreams to yourself, leaving the rest of us to enjoy what is clearly beneath your contempt.

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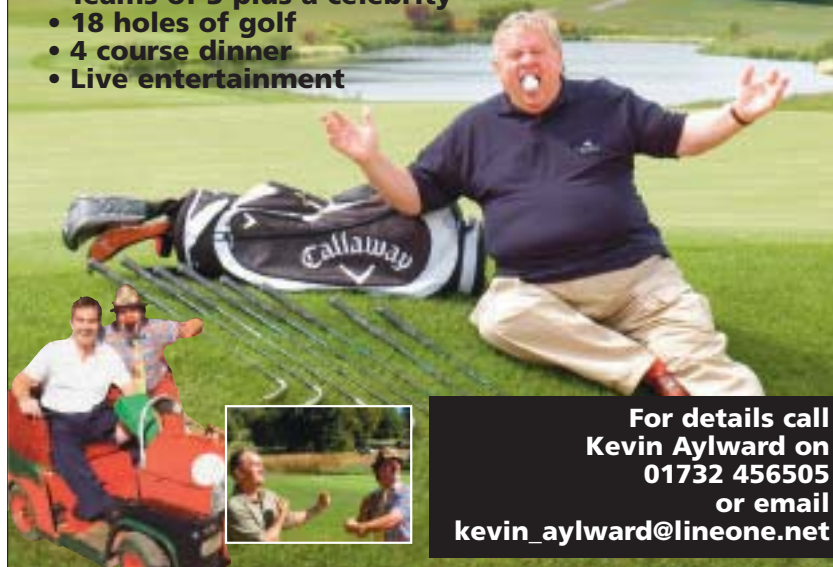
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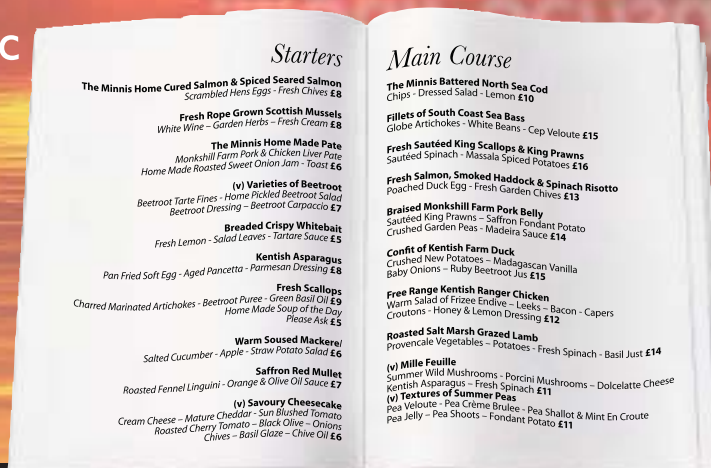
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WIN! Calendar Girls tickets and VIP safari at Port Lympne

KOS MEDIA has teamed up with The Aspinall Foundation, which is the charity that runs both Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks in Kent, to offer readers the chance to win TWO tickets to see the amazing, high-flying West End production, Calendar Girls next month.

PLUS you win a VIP tour around Port Lympne for up to four people, including The African Experience.

So, you can enjoy a totally wild night at the theatre and help save rare and endangered animals at the same time!

The theatre experience includes seeing the new stage play with an all-star cast including a post show meet with some of the cast over a glass of wine and a theatre programme between two.

This is a definite must for your diary: Friday, September 18 at 7.30pm at The Noel Coward Theatre, St Martins Lane.

As well as this fantastic theatre experience, the exclusive VIP tour at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is an added bonus and includes free entrance to the park for the day for four people, a personal, 90-minute guided tour through the park and animal enclosures, by Land-Rover.

This is a unique opportunity to get up close to the animals. Visit totallywild.net for more information about Port Lympne and The African Experience.

VIP tours to Port Lympne and theatre tickets to see Calendar Girls with The Aspinall Foundation are bookable if you don't win of course.

The package price for a Calendar Girls ticket through The Aspinall Foundation is £67.50 each.

To book a theatre trip and for more information visit: www.totallywild.net and click on Calendar Girls or call 0844 482 5143 and quote "Totally Wild" (this line is open for bookings Monday to Saturday 10am-8pm).

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Calendar Girls Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Closing date is Wednesday, August 26, 2009.

Question: Which Theatre in London could you get to see the Calendar Girls?

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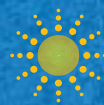
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TALK TIME

GRANT PERKINS

Grant Perkins is a 29-year-old author and artist from Margate. He talks to us about his latest book.



What is your latest book about?

Dwayne Hickenbottom and the Journey to the Centre of the Birth picks up shortly after the events of Dwayne Hickenbottom and the War Boots of Doxoville. Having found himself stuck in a world where everything is alien to him, Dwayne tries his best to settle in and get on with life. Unfortunately for Dwayne, when the War Boots aren't seeking out trouble, trouble is seeking out him.

How did you come up with the idea?

The original book was an amalgamation of many concepts and creations that I'd had throughout my life. I'd had so many thoughts and notions that it seemed a shame not to write them down. I'd always been a fan of the 'normal character meets a strange world' books, like Alice in Wonderland and The Wizard of Oz, and saw that format as the perfect mechanism for my characters.

How many books have you written so far?

Dwayne Hickenbottom and the Journey to the Centre of the Birth is my second, although I'm publishing a book of poetry based on some of the Doxoville characters later in the year.

What inspires you to write?

Life. More specifically, everyday life. Although the characters I write are fantasy, a lot of the situations they appear in are very real and have their roots in situations that I've been a part of or witnessed. My books are at www.thegrantperkins.com or by visiting me personally at my father's bike shop at 71 Canterbury Road, Westbrook, Margate. The first book costs £8.50 and the second £10.

YOUR LETTERS



BURIED: All Saints Church in Birchington

Rossetti: putting the record straight

I read last week's article headlined 'Desperate fans to pay homage to romantic Rossetti'.

Unfortunately, there are a few errors, which could cause the Birchington Heritage Trust some embarrassment, so I would like to set the record straight.

1. The spelling of the man's name is Rossetti (his spelling, not ours).

2. He did not come to Birchington for holidays – how we wish he had! He only came here at the suggestion of his friend Hall Caine on February 5, 1882 (not a good time of year in any century – and awful in 1882!). He was very ill and Caine hoped the bracing air might help his condition. It didn't – as he died here on April 9, 1882.

3. He made no stipulation for his burial. It was his brother William and sister Christina who decided that the beautiful, quiet churchyard at All Saints, Birchington, would be a good site for his last resting place. They feared the crowds, who might have trampled over his grave if it were in Highgate. He was anti-



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religion and it was his sister who was most concerned for his soul, not Rossetti.

4. The Birchington Heritage Trust Museum is open every Monday and every Saturday from 9.30am to midday (not

Monday to Friday, as stated in the article). It is situated in Room 4 of the Birchington Village Centre in Alpha Road, behind the library.

5. Our website is www.birchingtonheritage.org.uk and

there is plenty of information there about Rossetti.

7. In All Saints Church there are two windows – placed there in his memory by his mother in 1882. The left light used one of Rossetti's own paintings and the right is by his friend Frederick Shield, another of the Brotherhood.

7. Christina Rossetti wrote a three-verse poem after her brother's death entitled In Birchington Churchyard, which accurately describes how it was in 1882:

Birchington Churchyard by Christina Rossetti

A lowly hill which overlooks a flat, half sea, half country-side; a flat-shored sea of low-voiced creeping tide over a chalky, weedy mat.

A hill of hillocks, flowery and kept green, rounded crosses raised for hope, with many-tinted sunsets where the slope faces the lingering western sheen.

A lowly hope, a height that is but low, while time sets solemnly, while the tide rises for eternity, silent and neither swift nor slow.

(In memoriam DGR:

published in Athenaeum, 1882)

Jennie Burgess

Archivist to the Birchington Heritage Trust and All Saints Church

We must never forget The Birds

This year, more than ever before, the problem of seagulls has become intolerable.

I live in Birchington and have noticed the sports field at the Ursuline on Canterbury Road has become a seagull colony.

They start to take up their sunning positions from as early

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as 4am, with the inevitable screeching and wailing.

Have you ever tried sleeping through this racket in the morning?

It's especially awful when you have to be up for a full day's work.

I guess only those who want to protect these nuisance birds see them as wonderful and perhaps have the luxury of not having to work.

If the do-gooders stopped feeding them and treating them like pets instead of as pests, perhaps they would be eradicated.

I am not an animal hater; I just cannot see why we cull pigeons and kill vermin yet seagulls are allowed to multiply every year and make our lives a misery.

Why are they protected when their numbers increase every year?

The average life span of a seagull is 25 years and they produce two to three chicks each year; one pair can therefore swell the population by another 48.

I tried to count the gulls on the sports field and gave up when I got to around 700.

If we assume that amounts to 350 pairs, they could produce another 17,000 in their lifetime and that's only the gulls which were on the sports field that day, without the ones in Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Cliftonville... need I go on?

Just drive along the Canterbury Road, the main artery into Thanet, and check out the torn refuse bags and rubbish bags strewn across the road.

Come and see my car when they have flown over to sit on the roofs and squeal all day, or my washing covered in droppings.

Does Thanet council have a policy to support its ratepayers in resolving this hideous situation?

I guess not.

I suppose if we offered to pay more community charge, the council might just do something – or would it?

If we were to report our neighbours for making a noise nuisance at 4am every day, the council would be in there issuing notices and even eviction if the problem continued.

People seem to think they are lovely animals, but does no one remember Alfred Hitchcock's film The Birds?!

In order to ensure we as human beings remain in control of our world, something needs to be done now, before it's too late.

People who encourage them through food and allowing them to nest on their roof should be fined.

Or perhaps it should be mandatory to seagull-proof your roof and chimney.

For the peace of Birchington and the sanity of the human race, reduce the numbers of seagulls now.

Editor's note: the writer of this letter declined to give his name or address, but it must be pointed out that the herring gull (the commonest gull in Thanet towns) is fully protected by law and indeed has been placed on the IUCN Red List, which "identifies and documents those species most in need of conservation attention".

Football no longer scores highly with me

I agree with last week's blogger: professional football has, in my eyes, moved away from a sport to just a commercial money-making machine.

Many years ago, when footballers were still sportsman, I used to follow and support Chelsea, but now the huge egos and lack of discipline of the players, plus the lager-swilling louts who call themselves supporters, have turned me off the game.

I do not want to be in any way associated with such people who now represent football in the UK.

What makes me blush with shame is these louts carry on their antisocial behaviour abroad. Now all British tourists are tarred with the same brush and I resent this.

The excessive coverage by the media is a choking overload to TV viewers and readers of national papers, blanking out other sports.

When asked to explain why they exclude other sports from coverage, I have been informed "that football is the most popular sport in the UK and people want to watch it".

Here, I must strongly disagree. Statistically, fishing is the most popular sport in this country.

Rugby has a huge following, but the media moguls have not caught up to this yet – let's hope they don't. The only time we get relief from football is when Wimbledon is on.

John Atkins
by email



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who are fully conversant with all aspects of their work.

Therapist Kay Mitchell (pictured) said: "I found complementary therapies very helpful during my hectic and stressful corporate working life in London. "After my son was born, I trained in these therapies so that I could share with others what I had benefited from.

"No single treatment will suit all client needs. My years of experience with different therapies enable me to create a personalised treatment plan for each client."

All therapy treatments are popular, but particularly well liked at the moment are reflexology and massage.

Also on the up is paediatric cranial

sacral therapy, which helps babies improve digestion, breathing and sleep patterns.

For older children it assists development and helps to alleviate emotional and behavioural problems.

Kay said: "I really love my work as I meet a lot of very interesting people of all ages with a wide range of problems and conditions.

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Hugh's a charming man both on and off screen

■ BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

IN ROM-COM land, a man who can't say "I love you" never gets the girl.

Yet romantic indie film Adam breaks all the rules, featuring a leading man who has no idea what love is.

Living with a form of autism known as Asperger's syndrome, Adam (played by Hugh Dancy) is a kind and humbly straightforward man, unable to relate to emotions.

"I did think of it as the 'anti-acting' role," explains Dancy, last seen opposite Isla Fisher in *Confessions of a Shopaholic*.

"Everything you usually bring to a role, like empathy, connection, communication and reaction were denied me."

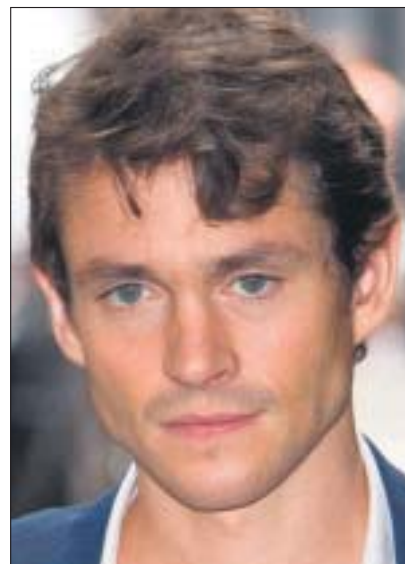
In the film, Adam embarks upon a relationship with Beth, played by Rose Byrne from hit American TV show *Damages*, and while Adam's future love is challenged by his disability, he also lives a genuinely free life.

"There's no agenda to Adam, no dishonesty, no duplicity, and he consistently says the things that we all wish we could say but that are barred by social convention," says Hugh.

Sitting on the edge of the sofa, Dancy is the archetypal English gent. Charming, well-spoken and articulate, he's dressed in an understated outfit of jeans, white shirt and grey jacket.

"There aren't many scripts like this," he adds. "I started reading it and had no idea what the story was and just thought, 'What's up with this guy?'"

"When Adam announces he has the condition, I was intrigued. First of all there was some justification for all the questions I'd had, and secondly I thought what a brave, intelligent way to tell that story, to not announce it up front but to let the audience, through Rose's



TOUGH ROLE: Hugh Dancy plays Asperger's sufferer Adam

character, get to know him as a human being."

Knowing nothing about Asperger's syndrome, Hugh realised he had a lot of work ahead of him if he was to do justice to the role.

As part of his research he visited people who live with Asperger's, often known as 'aspies'.

"The ones who agreed to sit and talk to me were incredibly generous and frank," he says.

"I realised that the range of behaviour and symptoms is vast and that freed me up in a way because I thought, 'Well I'm not trying to play every person with Asperger's.'"

Made in just 22 days on location in New York, Hugh says during filming he had a

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deep-set fear that no one would see it.

His worries proved unfounded and the film proved a success when it was shown at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival.

Although he's making waves in Hollywood, Hugh's resolute there's no permanent move to LA planned. "God no, my home is here in London, nowadays more in New York as well for personal reasons."

By this he refers to his recent engagement to New York-based actress Claire Danes, whom he met on the set of *Evening* in 2007.

As Adam makes some poignantly romantic gestures in the film, it seems only fitting to ask Hugh what the most romantic thing he's ever done is. "I've taken someone away on a surprise holiday," he says, after a pause.

ADAM

Certificate 12A



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Hang out at Bay festival

From cockney legends Chas 'n' Dave to dance theatre and graffiti art, there's something to please everyone

HERNE BAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 22, to
Sunday, August 30
Various venues, Herne Bay



COCKNEY legends Chas 'n' Dave are among the highlights of this year's Herne Bay Festival.

The hugely popular duo will be performing a concert of their greatest hits, such as Rabbit, Ain't No Pleasing You and Sideboard Song, as the headline act at Rock Around The Clock on Saturday, August 29.

Local bands have the chance to appear on the bill by competing in a competition being run during the festival. The lucky winners will receive studio time and recordings worth £500, as well as the chance to support Chas 'n' Dave at the concert.

There will be plenty of opportunities for audience participation at Let's Dance, a fun-filled day of free dance demonstrations which opens the festival this Saturday. A shimmering twilight procession with a sea theme will make its way along the seafront on Saturday evening, before a spectacular firework display marks the festival's official opening.

Sunday sees more family fun at the Cherry Orchard playing field, along with a coastal ramble, sailing demonstration race at the pier and more sailing action at the Memorial Park lake.

Whether people want to demonstrate their building prowess in the sandcastle competition, fly a kite or take part in the family cycle ride along the coast, there are lots of ways to get involved in the festival.

Teenagers will not be left out of the fun as music workshops have been arranged just for them.

Young people aged 12 and above are invited to take part in a free workshop at the ACF Drill Hall on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29, when they can tell stories about their favourite hang-outs and work with artists to set them to music.

The results will be uploaded at www.whatareyoudoinghere.co.uk to



create a virtual map showing the best places to hang out in the district.

Teenagers can also take part in the Freestylin' @ the Bay urban workshops, which take place at various venues, encompassing graffiti art, street dance, clothes customising and more, followed by a showcase event at the Bandstand on Friday, August 28.

With children's, sports and arts events also on offer, along with performances by MAD project winners, Katy Hirst and Rhiannon Lane, there is something to suit every interest.

Full festival listings can be found on the website at www.hernebayfestival.co.uk or in the free programmes.

To request a copy, phone 01227 862201 or alternatively email cassy.fry@canterbury.gov.uk.



with
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Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



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HAIRSPRAY

Tuesday, August 25, to Saturday, August 29
Theatre by the Sea, Broadstairs



BOUFFANT hairdos, cheesy television shows and 60s Baltimore – it can only be Hairspray.

Stage Door Theatre Company's latest production will transport the audience into the colourful, riotous world of the hit musical, starring a cast of more than 60 drawn from across east Kent.

After becoming a phenomenon on the Broadway stage, the multi-award-winning show inspired a new film version starring John Travolta and has delighted audiences with its big songs and unforgettable characters.

Tracy Turnblad is a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, but her one dream is to dance. Faced with the disapproval of her reclusive mother, Tracy is also subjected to prejudice because of her weight and her pro-integration views.

When she lands a dance spot on The Corny Collins Show, it looks like this outsider is going to become a star. But can she become more popular than the show's reigning princess and win the heart of hunky Link Larkin?

Tickets, priced at £10, are available from Sound House Records in Broadstairs.



A ONE MAN PROTEST

Thursday August 20,
Saturday, August 22,
and Sunday, August 23,
Memorial Theatre,
Broadstairs



THE summer repertory season at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club concludes with Alan Ayckbourn's play, A One Man Protest.

Taken from the playwright's Intimate Exchanges collection, the play is described as 'a piece of theatrical lunacy'. Can Toby, a headmaster with the largest collection of empty whiskey bottles in the country, save his wife from the arms of his best friend?

A rejected suitor stages a garden shed protest and a fire adds yet more confusion in Ayckbourn's highly accomplished play. Intimate Exchanges is a fascinating creation which sees 16 different dramatic permutations leading from one opening scene. At the end of each scene, choices made by the



characters select the next scene and there are eight distinct plays, each with an alternate ending.

Performances start at 7.30pm on Thursday, 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Saturday and

2.30pm on Sunday. Tickets cost £10.50/£12.50. To book, phone the box office on 0845 262 6263.

Seats can also be reserved by emailing info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

DIPPERS AND DUNKERS FESTIVAL

Friday, August 21, to Sunday, August 23
Various venues, Margate



PREPARE for a return to Margate's famous seaside traditions with the new Dippers and Dunkers Festival.

The festival takes its name from the Victorians who 'dipped and dunked' their visitors in Margate's waters when they fancied a sea-bathe. The three-day event will put a contemporary slant on variety and burlesque, from a headline show to sideshow illusions, talks and exhibitions.

A highlight will be the Sassy Seaside Show at the Theatre Royal Margate on Friday and Saturday. Audiences will be treated to magic, acrobatics, aerial displays, circus, music and a hint of naughtiness, which means the show is suitable for over-12s.

People with tattoos will have the chance to show off their body art and help to create the Thanet Tattoo, thanks to a touring tattoo exhibition called Skin Deep.

It has been organised by the National Maritime Museum in partnership with Thanet District Council. More information can be found online at www.visitthanet.co.uk.



THANET LEISURE

Café culture is getting some Canadian flavour

MUSIC fans can enjoy both new songs and standards when the Jamie Moore Trio visit Ramsgate.

The Canadian singer-songwriter is joined by Vince Clarke on drums and percussion and Harry Cook on bass at the Belgian Café on the Royal Harbour at 8.30pm on Saturday.

Admission is free. Phone 01843 587925 or visit www.belgiancafe.co.uk.

Winner of talent show has her own line-up

SOME of Thanet's most talented youngsters will appear in The Paige Duggan Show.

Led by this year's Make Me A Star winner, the line-up features girl band Bliss, singers Amy Collins and Ashleigh James. Jack Moore, Sarah Lucy Dole and Nick Wilson, while musical theatre performer Karl Dawson also returns.

The show is at the Granville Theatre at 7.30pm on Sunday. Tickets, £9, from the box office on 01843 591750.

Don't forget your flags at our Prom by the Sea

ENJOY an evening of patriotic music as Thanet Male Voice Choir presents its Prom by the Sea concert.

Next Wednesday, the choir are at the Pavilion on the Sands in Broadstairs, with songs from the shows, spirituals and a flag-waving firework finale.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and admission is free.

Guitarist sure to cause a sensation at seaside

AS a former guitarist with The James Brown Band, Alix Anthony knows how to handle an instrument.

The New Yorker, who has also worked with The Temptations and Duran Duran, brings his Sensational Alix Band to Seaside Shuffle at Westcoast in Margate on Friday. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the night. Call 0208 761 9078 or visit www.feenstra.co.uk.

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Farmhouse celebrates first birthday as Format returns

BY SIMON ROBINSON

PARTY poppers, streamers and gifts at the ready, music fans – The Farmhouse is set to celebrate its first birthday later this month.

The Canterbury venue will turn one on Saturday, August 22, and has lined up one of the country's finest turntable connoisseurs in DJ Format to help set the anniversary proceedings off.

The Southampton-born DJ burst onto the hip hop scene six years ago with his critically-acclaimed debut release Music for the Mature B-Boy.

If you don't know the album, hunt a copy down. But before you do, make sure you take a peek at the video for Format's most famous hit, We Know Something You Don't Know, featuring Jurassic 5 MCs Chali 2na and Akil.

That's if fluffy breakdancing animals are your thing.

But back to the birthday bash.

The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was looking forward to the big night.

"The rather wonderful DJ Format was one of the best DJs we had at The Farmhouse during our first year so we're delighted to announce that he'll be bringing the dusty breaks, rare grooves, soul classics and the rawest of rock and r'n'b to the party for us.

"He's genuinely one of the nicest guys in hip hop, something of a British legend and rapidly becoming a Canterbury favourite after some scintillating performances both at Lounge On The Farm and The Farmhouse."

Support on the night comes from



BIRTHDAY GUESTS: DJ Format, above, will be at the gig, while Casiokids, right, will be performing later this year

Comfyporn, DJ Shallow and Readybreak.

Farmhouse chiefs have wasted no time in booking up acts to perform during their second year of business, with the calendar up to Christmas already boasting a host of top music names.

These include Don Letts, The Dub Pistols, Casiokids, Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir and the James Taylor Quartet.

The birthday gig runs from 9pm to 2am. Entry costs £6. For more information and listings visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.



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- 5 Euston - 25/9 The Hop Inn, St Margarets



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THANET SHOPPING

Ghostly signing of new Ancient Darkness book

BESTSELLING children's author Michelle Paver will launch the final book in her Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series this weekend.

She will attend a book-signing at Waterstone's, Bluewater, at noon on Sunday, when fans can buy her new novel, Ghost Hunter.

Ghost Hunter is published by Orion Children's Books and priced at £10.99. For more information, call the store on 01322 624831.

Picture-perfect look at county's motoring past

CAR-lovers will be fascinated by a new book on the history of motoring in Kent.

From the earliest days of The Horseless Carriage Exhibition to the vehicles of the Second World War, this interesting book uses 300 black-and-white images to illustrate its story.

Written by Tim Harding and Bryan Goodman, Motoring Around Kent: The First Fifty Years is published by Amberley and priced at £12.99.

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IF a perfect beach body is proving elusive, Transform Maidstone can help you get in shape for your holiday.

The cosmetic-surgery provider claims to transform lacklustre winter skin with a microdermabrasion procedure, leaving a smooth base for your tan. Iron out wrinkles with Botox and feel great in a bikini with hair-removal technique The Quantum Intense Pulsed Light Laser.

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Natural Aussie skincare launches at Debenhams

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Natio products are available from Debenhams in Chatham and Gravesend. To celebrate the launch, the stores are offering a Launch Value Set worth £45. The set includes six products and retails at just £20.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

WOULD I LIE TO YOU?
BBC One, 10.35pm, Monday
THE TROUBLE WITH GIRLS
BBC Two

THERE are a lot of shows that have emulated the well-worn formula of Have I Got News For You.

You know the drill, three reasonably smart, funny people rib all and sundry for half an hour of easy watching.

Nevermind the Buzzcocks has ploughed the same furrow and there have been others such as Mock the Week and Channel 4's Jimmy Carr-fronted Eight Out of Ten Cats.

Both are decent enough shows, but occasionally veer into who can shout the loudest territory, which can get irritating.

Better than both those shows is Would I Lie to You?, which has returned for a new run.

Influenced as much by Call My Bluff as HIGNFY, this is smarter and less shouty than its two main rivals.

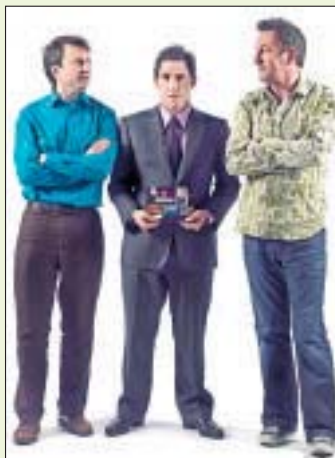
The panellists tell tall stories about their own lives with a few bona fide truths thrown in for good measure.

The opposing team must guess what is true and what is a load of old flannel and new host Rob Brydon, who has taken over from Angus Deayton, chips in with enough funnies of his own.

But it is David Mitchell who is the star of the show, as he is on most things he appears on.

His skew on the world, showcased to excellent effect in Peep Show, has something of Old Englishness about it that is very charming, very funny and very familiar to those of us who also feel exasperated and bewildered by the modern world.

LAST week's BBC Two documentary



GAME'S UP: Rob Brydon (centre) hosts Would I Lie to You? with David Mitchell and Lee Mack

The Trouble With Girls was probably the best documentary I've seen in years.

Charting the lives of three young Rochdale lasses struggling to make their way in life it was moving in parts and frustrating in others.

There were parts where you really started to feel sorry for the girls, who often seemed trapped by their own situations.

Two of them had their hearts set on military service, but were rejected by the Army because they suffered with cirrhosis.

However, for every thing that made you feel sorry for the girls, you could feel sympathy ebbing away when they announced they were pregnant yet again, after failing to use any contraception, only adding to their financial and housing woes.

This was quite hard to watch at times, but a real insight into the lives and the fate of so many of young people in this country today, nonetheless.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'LL have to fill out a lot of paperwork if you're going to get a loan or refund. It's a bore, but that's the hurdle you have to jump. You might as well get it out of the way as soon as possible. A misunderstanding between you and an authority figure makes life confusing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

IT'S important to take your artistic talent seriously. There's a lot more to you than making money. If you'd like to do something glamorous for a living the possibility is there. Granted, you'll have to take a pay cut, but that's better than being miserable all of the time.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

CREATING a budget is essential to your financial health. You need to be more careful about how you spend your money. Take things slowly with somebody who has just caught your interest. Don't go public with until you're sure about your feelings for each other.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

JOINING a professional organisation could boost your job prospects. When it comes to work, who you know is just as important as what you know. Your boss could hand you an unpleasant task. Don't waste any time complaining; just get it over and done with as quickly as possible.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

IF you want to launch a business, team up with someone who has had lots of experience in this field. They have lots of great advice and plenty of potential packed tips for running a profitable venture. Don't tell colleagues about your plans or they'll start to resent you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

IT'S time for a serious talk with a relative. They need to hear an honest opinion. You could be vulnerable to a powerful personality who seems to have all the answers. Actually, their motives are pretty suspect. Under no circumstances should you give them money.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOUR words have tremendous weight this week. If you think an authority figure is on the wrong track, speak now or forever hold your peace. Take care of your emotional health. Surrounding yourself with positive people will prevent depression from setting in.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU could be up for a job review so be open to your boss's views and suggestions. Nobody is perfect; there is always room for improvement. If you're going on a job interview, do some preparation. Research the company in question. This will show you are someone who does their homework.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

ANXIETY over work could be getting you down. You need to find a creative and relaxing outlet. Taking a short trip to see a friend will also be a lot of fun. Trust your instincts when it comes to a female relative. This woman could use a little tender loving care and nurturing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU may have to add to your qualifications to boost your professional prospects. This won't be an easy ride; your bosses and instructors will be very exacting. As far as love is concerned you're a little worried. The object of your affection is so desirable that it's hard to fight off rivals.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

KEEP your fears to yourself. If you need an outlet for pent up anxieties write them in a diary. Right now, you can't afford to let people see you sweat. A friend who is head over heels in love may keep breaking appointments. You've got to make them accountable for their behaviour.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DEEP philosophical matters are weighing on your heart. You're tired of money being the driving force in your life. If you're deep in debt, find out how much you owe and figure out a plan for paying your bills. It may take a while, but at least you'll be working to change things for the better.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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what's inside

Page 4-5

With many of us suffering from reduced incomes and unemployment on the increase, we look at the new fear that credit-card debts could trigger more economic suffering

Page 6-7

With all the confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, we help you educate yourself on what it is, whether you need it, and how to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to

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Money fraud is at its highest level in decades. We discover how the recession has led to the financial crime rate almost doubling in a year in the South East

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Find out what one council is doing to help businesses with a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants

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David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working out of the Maidstone office of Christie + Co reveals why this

sector is less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the economy as the down-turn does its worst

Pages 14-15

When you see full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash. Take a look at the returns...

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With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge when you drive away a new car

thanks to big discounts at the moment

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Downsizing to a more fuel and tax efficient car is just one way you can save money. Steve Loader gives more tips on cheaper motoring

Page 18

The Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car with talk of a top-up donation, so get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger

Page 19

Don't rush to change your car for one with less tax. There are other things to consider first...

Essential guide to where you can save

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Signs of economic life spotted

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the rise, but there are also a few signs that the economic situation may be on the turn – or at least it may not be getting worse at quite the same rate.

In this issue of Money Matters we hear from one expert on the retail sector who says many businesses are holding their own, and why the commercial property sector is still attracting plenty of buyers.

That's not to say that individuals and businesses aren't in need of some help, and in the coming pages there are details of

schemes offering assistance, and plenty of good advice to help you keep on top of your own financial affairs.

And to raise a smile during the summer months, visit vouchersforkent.co.uk where there are hundreds of money-saving offers waiting for you.

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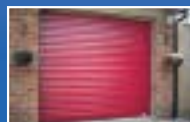
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Card debts set to cause even more financial headaches

By JEREMY GATES

WITH unemployment expected to top four million and many households already suffering from reduced income, there are fears that massive credit-card debts could trigger more economic turmoil.

Britain, where consumer debt in proportion to income has climbed above 170 per cent, is seen as more vulnerable to such a crisis than European countries and the United States, where the International Monetary Fund fears 14 per cent of consumer debt will turn sour.

The IMF believes consumer debt losses in Europe could hit £1.5bn – much of it in Britain.

A lot of this debt, such as sub-prime mortgages, was securitised – passed on to new

holders – and the Financial Times warned that the impact could extend beyond banks, possibly hitting insurance companies and pension funds.

Our plastic-fuelled spending spree is unravelling fast. Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion, but with average interest rates at 18 per cent – or 36 times current Bank base rate – that's a big strain on the 40 per cent of card-holders who pay interest on outstanding balances.

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk believes that card companies may have kept their rates high in defence against the looming problems.

He said: "If the debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent. I see big write-offs coming, as an increasing trend."

Over two years, the noose has slowly drawn tighter on those who have overspent. The old trick – keep switching debt to new cards with 0 per cent balance transfers – is harder to pull off as providers tighten terms.

Capital One, a leading provider, has withdrawn 0 per cent balance transfers altogether. Barclaycard's 0 per cent offer on balance



MOUNTING DEBT: If people's debt situation worsens, rates could top 18 per cent

transfers is down from 14 months to 12 and other providers – including Royal Bank of Scotland and its brands, and HSBC – restrict balance transfers to existing customers.

“Nearby everybody who could qualify for Virgin Money’s 0 per cent balance transfer for 16 months has probably got it by now,” Hagger says. “It’s been the first port of call for a long time.”

Hagger notes that a few products remain for clients with good credit records: Santander’s 0 per cent balance transfers runs for 15 months, while two others offer 0 per cent for 13 months – Halifax Mastercard and BT Visa Credit Card.

Daniella Lipszyc, solicitor and director at Ultimate Law, which advises card-holders in trouble, fears that some consumers face 50 years of suffocating debt.

“Introductory offers, such as 0 per cent balance transfers and 0 per cent APR for the first few months, get consumers signed up,” she says.

“Many don’t realise that once the initial period of the agreement ends, rates can rocket and interest payments can get out of hand.

“It takes almost 50 years to clear a debt of £5,000 by making the minimum repayment each month, on a typical APR of 16.9 per cent. Over that time, you’ll pay a staggering £10,773.93 in interest.”

Lipszyc argues that no

signed and properly executed agreements were completed for many new cards. Some lenders see this will cause problems if cases go to court and are hiring debt collectors to pressurise clients at home and at work.

“One of my clients has card debts of more than £150,000, but £10,000 is enough to get many into trouble,” she says.

Card providers, for their part, are also under pressure: they have lost rich pickings from the sale of Payment Protection Insurance with cards due to new regulations, and have seen penalty charges, which they levy on late payers, cut by Government action.

Spending power

But they can always raise rates. Lipszyc believes card providers have “terrific freedoms” despite the new controls.

“My husband had an AMEX card charging 19.6 per cent which jumped to 26 per cent – a 33 per cent rise – a few days after Bank base rate hit 0.5 per cent,” she says.

As problems deepen, Lipszyc thinks providers may accept deals – perhaps accepting a portion of a £10,000 debt – to tidy the books.

But the providers’ decision to raise the spending limit for many

customers in recent months – without being asked to do so – could backfire badly. Price-comparison service uSwitch.com reckons 5.7 million people received a boost to their credit-card limit in the

last year without being told about it, giving an average £1,538 per person for an extra £8.8bn of spending power.

“In the current climate, you could be fooled into thinking that increasing spending limits is a good thing as it stops people going over the limit and incurring extra charges,” says uSwitch’s Louise Bond.

“However, the issue is far more complicated. Providers are taking away consumer choice by throwing extra credit at people without their consent.

“Unless you regularly pay off your credit card bill in full, keeping high levels of debt on interest-bearing credit cards isn’t advisable. It’s an expensive form of borrowing.”

Peter Harrison, credit-card specialist at Moneysupermarket.com, says consumers must be aware of different rates charged on balance transfers and new purchases. A tempting 0 per cent on balance transfers might run for 12 months, while new purchases incur interest charges after three months.

Both Nationwide and SAGA cards, he says, offer a ‘positive hierarchy’ of repayment – money paid back each month cuts debt attracting the highest rate of interest.

“The fact is that many people who can’t repay debts intend to keep paying the minimum monthly sum required – usually one per cent to five per cent of outstanding balance – in the hope something turns up,” he says.

“It isn’t really the best way forward. If you don’t begin to start paying debts off, lenders may be entitled to increase rates because of higher risk.”

If you fear your card debts are out of control, the experts urge you to seek help – either from the card provider, or a debt advisor.

“The advantage of admitting problems is that the card provider is less likely to increase rates while the customer tries to sort things out,” says Harrison.

“Those who bury their head in the sand to avoid the problem could be most at risk of losing their homes in the months ahead.”

Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2,000

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■ Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory pub

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care, petrol or diesel £109.

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs

■ KOS is offering Traditional Barbeque Grill and Oven ‘Smoker Bags’ for £14.99

■ KOS is offering a saving of £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine for only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

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CARD CHAOS: Outstanding card debt tops £64 billion in the UK

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■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay, is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ KOS is offering a Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care petrol or diesel, £139

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ KOS is offering an all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together, from only £39.99. Save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off a used vehicle when you present this voucher

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Keeping your PPI

If you think you have been mis-sold a policy, you can claim compensation. Find out how...

THERE has been much confusion around Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in recent months, and the fact is that everyone needs to educate themselves on what it is and whether you need it, to ensure that you are not being mis-sold to.

If you think your policy has been mis-sold then there are steps you can take to ensure you get the compensation you deserve.

Here **Martyn Paddon**, senior practice manager at Bromley-based MTA Solicitors, dispels some of the myths about PPI.

WHAT IS PPI?

There are around 20 million PPI policies in the UK, generating over £5 billion a year for the companies involved. The policies cover repayments in the event that you are made redundant or unable to work due to illness or injury.

In many cases the policies are automatically added to a loan agreement regardless of whether the policy holder has requested one, and can increase the amount repayable by thousands of pounds over the life of the loan.

Consumers are often unaware of this taking place and many people fall outside of the bracket for which the policy applies. For exam-

ple if you are retired, self-employed or not reliant on an income, you may not need or benefit from PPI as for a large part these policies cover you if you are employed and lose your job through redundancy.

When you take out a loan there are strict laws dictating how the loan is sold to you, which are there to protect you from unfair practices. The selling of PPI policies is regulated and falls within the Consumer Credit Act, which can be complex, so it is the lender who has to ensure that policies are sold correctly.

If the correct process has not been adhered to the PPI policy could be mis-sold and you may be entitled to a refund of the policy, plus interest. Also many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it.

The financial regulator has been fining PPI companies for "not treating customers fairly", plus the Competition Commission has investigated the market and has placed a number of demands on lenders to curb these unscrupulous practices. But this comes as little relief to those consumers who have already been mis-sold PPI.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR POLICY HAS BEEN MIS-SOLD

There are hundreds of thousands of potential mis-sold policies out there and it is possi-

ble to seek compensation on mis-sold PPI going back six years. So what are the options if you think you may have been a victim of mis-selling?

The biggest hurdle is knowing whether you've been mis-sold PPI in the first place. You may have taken out loans in the past and have no knowledge of whether the lender has even sold you PPI, as they may have wrapped this into the re-payment figure without you even realising. Often this can be ascertained by examining your loan documents carefully.

Many people embark on their own battle to try and recoup the money they have already paid on mis-sold insurance but lenders can drag their heels, only paying out the minimum (with no interest), or simply refusing to pay out at all. People then give up, thinking this is the maximum to be repaid, or that there isn't a case to be won. However getting some professional legal support at this stage would increase the likelihood that they would receive a lot more.

Choosing the services of claims management companies, who now offer PPI reclaiming services, needs to be thoroughly investigated before proceeding. Many of these companies have simply jumped on the bandwagon without the expertise and it's probably best to tread cautiously. Some charge an upfront fee which should not be necessary.

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on the facts



UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES: many sellers are paid commission on the sale, so are keen for you to take on Payment Protection Insurance regardless of whether you actually need it

Seeking legal advice may be a more viable option, as most solicitors will charge on a 'no win no fee' basis.

By seeking professional legal advice, you stand a better chance of proving to the lender that the PPI policy has been mis-sold and obtaining proper compensation.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT POLICY FOR YOU

Consumers do need to understand this type of Payment Protection Insurance,

ensure they need it and take on the responsibility to shop around. You need to take out insurance that's suitable for you and ensure the lender is giving you options.

You should be very wary if the insurance policy is tied-in to you receiving a loan.

Despite all the negativity around PPI, it is a very valid insurance if sold correctly, and should you need to make a claim, can mean the difference between losing everything and retaining your lifestyle.

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■ KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, a saving of £20 on the RRP

■ EC Bates motorbikes shop in Dartford is offering zero per cent finance on selected Yamaha and Suzuki bikes

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p saving, £40 off RRP

■ The Orchard restaurant in Maidstone is offering Meal Deals Monday-Saturday 7.30-9pm. Select from the menu a main meal and alcoholic or soft drink for £4.95

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a complimentary strawberry shortcake stack when you buy two courses in the Verve Grill

■ KOS is offering Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save 40 per cent off RRP

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Money fraud figures double in South East

By **ALEX HOAD**

BIG-MONEY fraud is at its highest level in decades and has almost doubled in a year in the South East.

The news comes from research by global financial powerhouse KPMG Forensic, which also revealed more than half the fraud in the UK by value takes place in the region.

More than 160 cases of serious fraud with charges of over £100,000 came before the courts in the first half of the year – the highest number in any six-month period since KMPG launched its fraud barometer 21 years ago.

The South East remains the UK's fraud hotspot, with 63 serious frauds taking place in the first six months of the year – up from 38 in the same period in 2008.

The value of the frauds was more than £350m – more than half of the UK's overall total.

Among the Kent cases were an Ightham man who claimed he was a land developer earning £90,000 a year to obtain two false mortgages worth £346,000.

A Swanley mechanic was implicated in a £38m stolen car ring, while two employees of a Kent insurer lodged bogus claims to defraud their employer of £462,000.

Investors were the biggest victims, losing £320m – mainly to professional gangs, which accounted for £450m of fraud nationwide.

Company managers were also responsible for defrauding their employers of £150m in 32 cases throughout the UK



DODGY DEALS: Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in bogus cooked-up investment schemes

Over a quarter of cases, worth £111m, were committed against financial institutions.

Commenting on the figures, Hitesh Patel, partner at KPMG Forensic, said: "These figures are bad, but the worst is yet to come."

"It will be a number of years before the impact of the recession fully feeds through into the fraud statistics."

"Hard times mean more people are driven to fraud by personal pressures, and more investors are willing to believe in cooked-up investment schemes."

"Companies too remain vulnerable to the threat within – their staff – as evidenced by the £150m of fraud that managers have been tried for in the last six months alone."

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■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all new Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air con

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit for £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone just £24.99 save £20

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 TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Getting Medway back in business

New council schemes will help economic growth

BY ALEX HOAD

WHILE the recession continues to bite across the country, individuals and businesses in Medway will soon be offered even more help to beat it.

The local council has developed a series of counter-recessionary measures, including a scheme to support graduates and a programme of business start-up grants.

These measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development.

The measures are also targeted at the priorities identified in the council's new draft Economic Development Strategy.

Portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth Cllr Jane Chitty said: "Combatting the recession is high on Medway Council's agenda and we are committed to doing everything we can to help business growth and job creation at a local level."

"Medway has built a very strong business sector, ranging from engineering and manufacturing to service industries and it is imperative that we build on this very sound foundation.

"These 10 counter-recessionary measures show our commitment as a council to support local residents and businesses."

The 10 measures are:

• **Micro-enterprise graduate work placement scheme:** It is important that students see Medway as a place to utilise their qualifications and skills.

This scheme will provide micro-businesses in Medway with access to talented local graduates – allowing graduates to gain valuable work experience and providing businesses with valuable skills. This scheme will start in the autumn.

• **Business start-up grants programme:** These will be grants available up to a maximum of £1,000, which will help budding entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses. Further information on this scheme will be available shortly and the scheme will begin in September.

• **Partners for Growth (PFG) interest-free loan scheme:** Previously, businesses wanting

to apply for the scheme had to have a bank loan in place before they were eligible. However, many small and medium-sized companies in Medway have found it difficult getting extra finance from banks due to the current recession. In answer to this, Medway Council has relaxed the criteria of the scheme and companies no longer need to have a bank loan to apply.

• **Medway Retail Conference and launch of Retail Champions scheme:** On October 1, the Medway Retail Conference will mark the launch of the Retail Champions' scheme, which takes place at the St George's Centre in Chatham Maritime. It aims to support Medway's retail businesses by advising about local workforce training and business support programmes, covering aspects such as customer service skills, effective business development and marketing.

• **Employ Medway:** Starting in August, Employ Medway will focus on those people who are recently unemployed or have been made redundant. Employ Medway advisors will work with clients to enable them to review their options, look at addressing their training

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and skills needs and further provide support in seeking alternative local employment. A dedicated advice centre will open next month in Chatham High Street.

• **Managed workspace:** Medway Council has more than 100 business units at affordable rents across three sites, including the newly opened Innovation Centre which provides high quality business space tailored for innovative, ambitious and dynamic businesses. All tenants receive personalised business advice and support at all of the council's managed workspace sites. The council has vacant premises ready and available to businesses with aspirations for growth.

• **Transmanche Enterprise Network:** An advice service to assist businesses to find new markets on the other side of the Channel.

• **Eco-Advantage Scheme:** A training and development programme for local businesses advising them how they can respond to the challenge of climate change while also reducing costs.

This scheme will become operational in the autumn.

• **Creative Industries – business support and networking:** Support for the growth and development of Medway's creative businesses through the appointment of a dedicated business support officer.

cer. This role will also include implementing initiatives that will encourage networking between creative businesses as well as business partnerships with other complementary sectors, such as manufacturing. Medway Council hopes to recruit for this position in the autumn.

• **Medway apprenticeships scheme in partnership with local training providers:** The development of a new local apprenticeship scheme to provide valuable work experience to young people aged from 16 to 24. Opportunities will include apprenticeships within the council as well as with private sector contractors to the council. This scheme will start in October.

For more information email the business support team at business.support@medway.gov.uk.



PLANTING IDEAS:
New council measures are designed to show support for local business start-up and growth as well as workforce development

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Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Avinco aerial and satellite store in Ramsgate is offering 15 per cent off aerial installation

■ Belmont Hypnotherapy in Ramsgate is offering £5 off all hypnotherapy treatments, from stop smoking to losing weight

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all ceramic pipe range

■ Lay Well flooring store in Sittingbourne is offering free upgrade on underlay

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Retailing in the recession

David Garrard, associate director and retail negotiator working at the Maidstone office of Christie + Co, shares his thoughts on the corporate retail property sector in the South East



RETAIL NEGOTIATOR: David Garrard

BUSINESSES in the retail sector, be it convenience store, off-licence, forecourt or newsagent, are certainly not immune to the global financial crisis we currently find ourselves dealing with, but are proving less susceptible than businesses in other areas of the retail market.

Although average property values in the retail sector fell across the UK in 2008, they did so at a much more modest rate than those reported in other business property sectors, for example what pubs and hotels witnessed.

This trend has been maintained across the South East retail market over the last six months, demonstrating the sector's resilience and showing that levels of confidence remain high amongst established operators and first-time buyers.

Many business owners we talk to indicate that turnovers have remained steady, although there has been some pressure on margins, while some have witnessed an increase in turnover. Despite all the economic pressures, it should be remembered that convenience stores, etc, generally provide staple products which consumers buy on a regular basis.

The fact that transactional levels have remained fairly stable also shows that independent operators clearly continue to believe in their ability to build successful local retail businesses.

We are also seeing that buyers with commercial or residential portfolios are taking a long-term view of their assets in the hope they rebuild their value— they are also looking for cash-generating businesses. These predominantly cash-rich buyers, who have been sitting on the sidelines for the last eight months, have steadily come back into the market looking for opportunities where they can add value.

With banks becoming increasingly stringent regarding their lending criteria, established local operators are also taking advantage of a reduction in competition from national operators and declines in values, to enhance their estates. The banks are seemingly more willing to back those with existing successful operations.

An operator's ability to make his store a vital part of the local community has never been more important. The economic slowdown has provided switched-on retailers, across all our sectors, with opportunities to develop their operations. Well-run businesses, which provide a valuable offer to their local communities — including good product availability and a speedy service with a personal touch — can

still generate sales, especially as consumers cut down on luxury items and concentrate on necessities.

The first half of the year has continued to highlight the fact that people's appetite for this ever-changing market remains strong. Despite the doom and gloom being propagated by national media regarding the commercial property market at present, there are still plenty of people looking to buy both freehold and leasehold opportunities in the retail sector.

The last six months has also highlighted that it is imperative for businesses and would-be buyers to seek professional, up-to-the-minute advice, whether you are selling or valuing a property.

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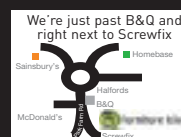
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Photographer David Watkins and Gebrielle Gothe on their new business that's thriving despite the crunch

Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering goose down pillows from £24.99 inc p&p, save £125 on RRP

■ Oliver Carpets is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels

■ KOS is offering Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant £29.99

■ Colgate Doors in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off selected garage doors

■ Avinco in Ramsgate is offering free consultation

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN full-page adverts claim the price of gold has soared 30 per cent in the past six months alone, it isn't only those facing big debts or mortgage arrears who are tempted to turn old heirlooms and unwanted gifts into cash.

Strictly speaking, the claim isn't true. Gold is down about 18 per cent on the £700 level seen in February, while the dollar price is down from 1,006 to 955 in the same period. But this is unlikely to deter sellers who need cash.

Earlier this year, gold achieved its highest-ever price against sterling, the euro, the Swiss franc and the dollar in Canada, Australia and New Zealand – indeed just about everywhere except for the Japanese yen and the US dollar.

After years of steely jewellers looking dismissively at a well-worn keepsake and advising desperate owners not to waste their time, the internet is creating a world where it is much easier to turn surplus items into cash.

With British Government debt soaring towards a trillion pounds, Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, the UK's leading online service for gold bullion investment, reckons the craze for turning valuable metals into cash may be only just beginning.

"When Cash4Gold, a big American company, gets going in Britain, you could see quite an impact on this business," he says.

"These boys are big enough to take a two-minute advertisement in the Superbowl. A significant amount of the booming level of scrap-gold supply may be down to the model they've established.

"Theirs is an impressive business model: heavy advertising, an efficient collection/distribution network and a cheque rapidly dispatched for vendors."

Website CashYourgoldNow.co.uk, which promises a "fast, efficient and very discreet"

Get ready for the gold rush

service, is likely to feel the draught as the Americans arrive.

Its selling angle is that any unwanted old jewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion.

The argument is a timely one because gold has been a relatively steady store of value through 18 months of financial turmoil which has wiped nearly £9 trillion off global share values. Most other investments, apart from US Treasury bonds, have headed south.

Jewellery

Ash says the "scrap side" of gold sales boomed globally in the first quarter of 2009, with a total value of 500-1,000 metric tonnes sold by owners seeking cash.

If private sales continued at levels seen earlier this year, the scrap side could soon generate more gold than the 2,500 tonnes annually produced by commercial mines.

"Heavy selling by private owners in Asia and the Far East is normal and what you would expect," Ash says.

"There is no banking network in rural India, so farmers turn profits into gold, not rupees, and then sell heavy 'investment jewellery' for cash in the planting season.

"What's new is the volume of old jewellery coming out of Western households. It is being sold off in greater volumes than at any time since the recession of 1979-81."

However, Ash thinks second-quarter sales

might actually fall: gold prices tend to drift in summer, and sales have attracted less media coverage lately.

It is also possible, he thinks, that households have dumped items they thought about selling for years. Websites offer easier access to buyers, and a cleaner sale.

But are people selling too cheaply?

Krista Waddell at Ounces to Pounds, which organises 'Gold Parties', claims her 'tupperware-style' events in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Scotland pay out £50,000 per week.

"Cash4Gold is short-changing Britain," she claims. "Its margin is chewed away on TV advertising and profit, and not put in the pockets of British consumers.

"With our parties, people see what they are getting, without delay. They get a good price there and then for unwanted gold, platinum and silver. No waiting, no hassle."

Waddell says her customers, mainly 45-plus and mostly women, are not turning valuables into cash to pay the rent.

"They have stuff sitting around and no other sales outlet, and they won't use pawnbrokers," she says.

"Often, they bought items in the 1980s when gold was a third of the price it is today. If they sell today at 50 per cent of value, they still make money. It's a fun evening, and it's an unusual sale which puts cash in your pocket!"

But even these sellers may regret their

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MONEY MAKER: Old jewellery can be turned into instant cash for a holiday, a new outfit, bills or a special occasion



actions later, say lenders who accept your valuables as security for a loan and return them when the loan is redeemed.

Paul Aitken at leading online asset lender Borro.com says he has been following this market closely since it began in the United States 18 months ago.

"Too many people accept offers of 20-30 pence in the pound. Those who see jewellery as a way of getting money should consider all other options first.

"We can usually lend more money than they will get from a sale. They can come back, perhaps within two months, and have their goods back after we deduct interest.

"In close to 90 per cent of cases we take on, the customer gets back whatever item they have pledged. But this is a solution to short-term money problems, not long-term ones."

Aitken says that when such artifacts are melted down for their precious metals, any intrinsic value, both in workmanship and sentiment, is destroyed.

"If you need money in a hurry, don't sell under distress at a gold party because you are

unlikely to get the best price."

Aitken says 'asset lending' is much easier since the internet reduced the need to find a pawnbroker: just go online, find out what an item is worth, send it off in a secure envelope and the cash is ready in 24 hours.

However, Borro charges four per cent a month on a loan of £1,000. Over six months, a £1,000 loan costs £300 interest.

Of course, any owner of valuable goods should think carefully before they sell.

Mark Gettinby, director of Intune, the financial services arm of Help The Aged, says it is important to be aware of security as you will be dealing with people you don't know.

"If selling goods online, never give out bank details and make sure you wait for any cheques to clear before parting with the goods," he advises.

"If people come to your house to pick up items, arrange a time when you are not alone. And if you're not selling goods through an auction marketplace, it's always worth getting a second opinion on the price offered to verify you're getting the best possible price."

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Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales for £19.99

■ Hobbs Parker in Ashford is offering good quality second hand cars from £500

■ Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45

■ Rochester Court Kitchens is offering 20 per cent off solid wood kitchens

■ KOS is offering a Garden Sonic Blaster for £29.99

■ Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all parts and accessories

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Save by buying a car

BY STEVE LOADER

BUY a car in a recession?

It sounds mad, but there might never be a better time for some of us.

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge on a new car thanks to big discounts at the moment.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme (see later story), but dealers have been knocking cash off cars for months – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade or not.

There are other deals that can be factored in too, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any add-ons you fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying an unpopular engine or trim combination or, worse, a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago.

After all, you don't want to trade your old gas guzzler for another just as thirsty or likely to depreciate badly.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars always devalue unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for ditching something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, review your part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out the running costs for the next three years – they might be much less



WISE BUY: Chevrolet's ultra-new Cruze (above) and the versatile Nissan Qashqai (left) are two models to tempt you if you decide to raid those savings accounts



the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version.

The eco supermini might save £105 road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more and you might not think the driving experience is worth paying extra for either.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; the fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on their heavier diesel equivalents.

than the cost of replacing it.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but this is still a small part of

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

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3 The Government giving away money.

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BY STEVE LOADER

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear – a moped or motorcycle might be a better option.

If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal. Feather the throttle at cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and

Smarter driving for better saving



SENSIBLE CHOICE: Downsizing to modern cars like the Peugeot 107 city car (right) or affordable Kia Ceed family hatch – with a seven-year warranty – can save money, but sensible driving can knock even more off your motoring bill

wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing

and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air con

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snuggly mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

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Scrapheap banger is motoring ahead

AFTER a shaky start, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive is purring like a sports car.

It has been so successful that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

So, while there is some talk of a top-up donation, get your order in now if you fancy swapping your banger – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappoint-

BY **STEVE LOADER**

ment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the

exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.



SALES BOOST: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has boosted sales of newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and ultra-frugal Hyundai i10 (right)



Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering personalised Weekender Bags for £29.99

■ Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September

■ Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher

■ Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for £79.95+vat

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IN DEMAND: Small hatchbacks like the frugal Mazda2 (far right), chic Renault Clio and big-selling Vauxhall Corsa (below) are in demand, helped by low running costs including low road tax bills



Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care petrol or diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving more than 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster glare shields from £14.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Pros and cons of tax savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

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Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.



Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

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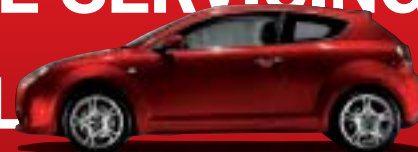
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- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM

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- CHECK BRAKE PIPES AND LINES
- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM
- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE CONTENT
- CHECK DRIVE BELTS (EXCLUDES CAM BELT)
- CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS

- CHECK BATTERY CONDITION
- VISUALLY CHECK FRONT PADS AND DISCS
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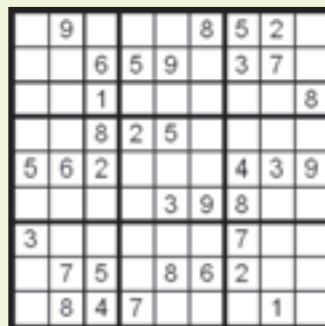
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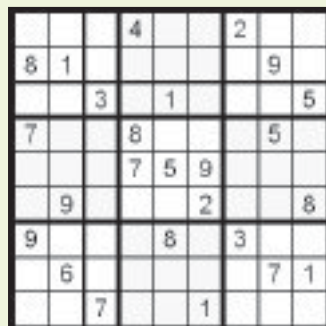
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

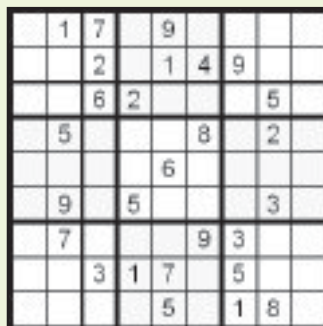
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

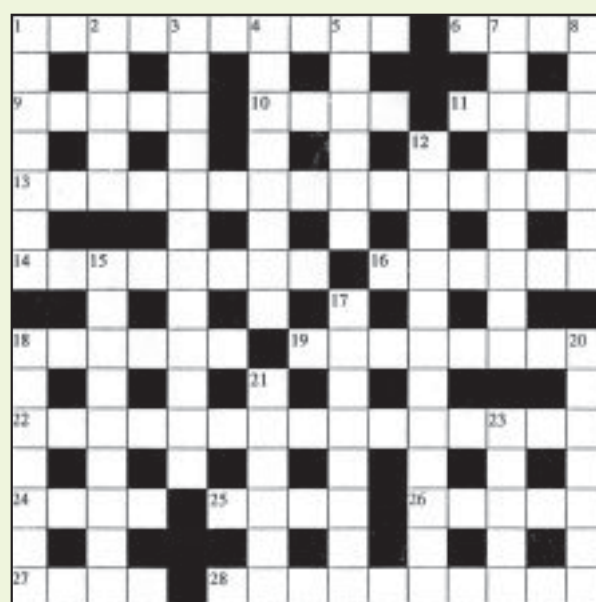
ACROSS

- 1 US canteens potentially providing nourishment (10)
- 6 In the bag Edam had matured (4)
- 9 A detective accepting last letter from old Mexican (5)
- 10 Trip from square belonging to us (4)
- 11 Jane produced a girl (4)
- 13 Itchy meaty snack? (4,11)
- 14 Lifted forest timber (8)
- 16 Before youth leader found abbey (6)
- 18 End that is for footballer (6)
- 19 Be about to have the Spanish cooked meat included with white sauce (8)
- 22 Old scoundrel running sporting events (9,6)
- 24 Eccentric left with nothing on (4)
- 25 Part of eye, part mauve always (4)
- 26 Doctor behind with payment (5)
- 27 Idolise Dorothy having energy (4)
- 28 Suspect work on bend in disrepair (6-4)

DOWN

- 1 Person photographing fish (7)
- 2 Arty's struggling with woodland deity (5)
- 3 Too much of a load to bear (6,6)
- 4 In front turning into rear (8)
- 5 Surly sort of curtsy (6)
- 7 Colourful place for actors offstage? (9)
- 8 Powerhouse? (7)
- 12 Pipe officer (12)
- 15 Placed wider apart while in a dazed state (6,3)
- 17 Pass football to defender and get this response? (8)
- 18 Looked with amazement at remarkable gold egg (7)
- 20 Illuminate length I removed (7)
- 21 Case of the shakes (6)
- 23 I am past the mature stage (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 SE African country (10)
- 6 Bug (4)
- 9 Feelings experienced (5)
- 10 Chrysalis (4)
- 11 Go round and round (4)
- 13 Culpability (15)
- 14 Raised in relief (8)
- 16 Harsh (6)
- 18 New (6)
- 19 Mournful (8)
- 22 Building materials (6-3-6)
- 24 Farewell (2-2)
- 25 Rouse (4)
- 26 Tight (5)
- 27 Social class (4)
- 28 Dutifully (10)

DOWN

- 1 Mobile (7)
- 2 Striped mammal (5)
- 3 Skilful act (12)
- 4 Indecent (8)
- 5 Arrogant (6)
- 7 Meaningless exclamation (9)
- 8 Fixed attitude (7)
- 12 Drink excessively (3,3,6)
- 15 Racket sport (9)
- 17 Shook (8)
- 18 Gangster (7)
- 20 Robbery (7)
- 21 Of Cambridge (6)
- 23 Tinge (5)

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CRYPTIC SOLUTION No100

ACROSS: 1 Endow 4 Piquancy 8 Play gooseberry 10 Spotlight 11 Style 12 Deft 13 Toboggan 17 Key punch 18 Moon 22 Cajun 24 Transient 25 Unpremeditated 26 Dampener 27 Empty. DOWN: 1 Exposed 2 Dragonfly 3 Wiggle 4 Plough 5 Question 6 Aversion 7 Curry 9 Mean 14 Goose-step 15 Runner-up 16 Scotsman 17 Kick 19 Noted 20 Zander 21 Tsetse 23 Junta.

QUICK SOLUTION No101

deco 20 Cuffed 21 Pencil 23 Error. Economic 16 Demanded 17 Sigh 19 Art. External 7 Tulp 9 Hymn 14 Statement 15 Intervide 3 Gallon 4 Cable 5 Selfless 6 Preceded 27 Lotto. DOWN: 1 Belisha 2 Amusement 25 Creme de la creme 26 Assassin 17 Sketched 18 Gala 22 Green 24 little 10 Sartorial 11 Reply 12 Arum 13



Soak up Brittany's Gallic charm

■ BY DAVE MARK

CHATEAU des Ormes offers something-for-everyone holidays.

The 250-acre parkland and forest site, about 15 miles inland from Mont-Saint-Michel, has enough activities to keep the whole family busy and out of sight without ever venturing into the rest of France.

It's visually rather impressive. Spreading outwards from a sublime, centuries-old château, the landscaped forests and parks somehow manage to retain a remote, rural, almost pastoral quality despite being close enough together to preserve a sense of community and neighbourliness.

In this self-contained, almost exclusively English little world, you have everything from paintballing to pony trekking, pedalos to pitch-and-putt. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools have slides, waterfalls, lazy-rivers and all you could ask for, except maybe a place to swim.

While some activities are free, plenty are not. And the ones that aren't are the ones your nippers will want to try.

The aerial circuit of zip wires and wire walks, for example, looked terrific fun, but at around £15 a head, it had to be. The reps were rather good, however, and not too many people laughed when a pensioner from South Yorkshire clattered into a tree.

For our late August stay, the weather was nothing special. When it rained, it really rained, and drying damp clothes in a mobile home isn't easy, although that was our only complaint about the roomy four-person 'Villagrand' accommodation. Its two decent-sized bedrooms book-ended a comfortable kitchen-cum-dining room, and the two bathrooms were a godsend.



HIGH POINT: The magnificent Mont-Saint-Michel off the coast of Normandy is a must-see on any trip to the region

Like all deluded families, we'd promised to take the self-catering thing seriously and live on a budget. But the seafood was one of the main reasons for coming to this part of the world, so we went a tad mad on mussels.

If we did want to knock up a home-cooked feast, an on-site shop had all we needed, though the area had a wasp problem at the time of our visit and the bakery buzzed with unwelcome visitors.

As ever with Brits abroad, the campsite truly came alive at night. But the bars weren't too rowdy or too expensive, and were nicely packed with families playing cards, watching sport on the big screen or knocking back a drink or two until the disco opened and the teenagers could go off to enjoy themselves without much supervision.

The jewel in the area's crown was, for us, the gorgeous little town of Dinan – a little-known medieval citadel with 13th-century ramparts and 15th-century half-timbered houses. My four-year old, Elora, called it "the olden days" and she wasn't far wrong.

But for retail therapy, the market at Dinard takes some beating. Whether it be textiles,

seafood or just enough clothes to start a shop, stalls stretch as far as the eye can see. It's ringed by endless coffee shops and bars, where the waiters have no objection to you ordering a sit-down coffee while you pull a baguette from your shopping bag and have a munch.

For seafood, the harbour town of Cancale can't be beaten.

The platter at one of the many blue-and-white-painted seafront restaurants where we ate was extraordinarily fresh, with local oysters big enough to be eaten with knife and fork.

For wow-factor, the best came last: Mont-Saint-Michel is surely one of the great wonders of the world.

Like a snowglobe without the glass, this exquisite church sits atop a rocky island approximately one kilometre off the coast of Normandy. Accessible by foot only during a gap in the tides, this extraordinary commune of narrow streets with tiny shops and restaurants feels like a filmset.

All in all, we spent more than we planned, ate more than we anticipated, and had much more fun than we expected.

FACT FILE: BRITTANY

Time difference	+ One hour (GMT)
Regional capital	Nantes
Language	French, Breton, Gallo
Population	4,400,000
Currency	£1 = 1.16 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Climate	Temperate

Travel details

Dave Mark was a guest of Keycamp, which offers seven nights' self-catering at May half-term 2010 in a Supernova mobile home for two adults and up to four children at Château des Ormes in Dol-de-Bretagne, from £383 including Dover-Calais ferry crossings, if booked by September 30.

Limited availability remains this year in August and September in a mobile home from £472 per week. Five-night tent stays in September start at £219.50.

Keycamp reservations: 0844 406 0319 and www.keycamp.co.uk.



BIG SPLASH: A pool at Château des Ormes

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PROPERTY NEWS

Homeowners expect recovery in market

CONSUMER confidence was nudged up marginally in July by expectations of recovery in the housing market and an end to the recession, Nationwide said.

Nationwide's Consumer Confidence Index rose to 60 in July, up from a revised 59 in June.

Spending confidence fell for the first time in a year, but British homeowners believe the value of their property will rise in the next six months.

Martin Gahbauer, Nationwide's chief economist, said consumers are cautious, but are not panicked by the recession.

"Consumers might have been reassured by reports that the housing market may be starting to recover, and manufacturing output is no longer falling as rapidly as it was a few months ago," Gahbauer said.

Around one in five of those polled expect the economy to worsen in the next six months, compared to 53 per cent at the start of 2009.

In a separate report, the British Retail Consortium revealed a slowdown in shop-price inflation, helping consumer purchasing power.

Commercial sector sees rise in fortune

THE value of commercial property has risen for the first time since June 2007, according to property agents CB Richard Ellis.

The value of offices, retail space and warehouses has fallen by around 45 per cent since the onset of the credit crisis in 2007. The sector's demise has played a major role in the woes being endured by Britain's biggest banks.

But analysts say the 0.2 per cent rise recorded for July by the company is further evidence that the economy may be turning a corner.

A number of property companies and funds are now raising millions of pounds to target properties whose values have fallen sharply and this demand for assets has driven the rise in pricing.

David Wylie, head of economics and forecasting at the company said: "This month's index results reveal the undoubted sea change in investor sentiment that has taken place."

"Although concerns remain over the near-term prospects for secondary assets with weaker covenants, the figures seem to confirm that investors have awoken to what is now widely being seen as a once-in-a-generation buying opportunity."



Hot campaign to make Brits more house-proud

■ BY NICK AMES

ONE in five people are too embarrassed at the state of their home to admit visitors, according to a recent survey.

And worries over interior design are affecting a large number of people who have little confidence in their ability to make the best of their rooms.

Appliance brand, Hotpoint, has conducted national research into how people feel about their homes.

In the current economic climate, with people "improving, not moving", the company says it has got to the bottom of how homeowners really view their interior-design skills.

As a result, Hotpoint has launched a campaign with interior designer Kelly Hoppen to help Brits inject a bit of style into their homes.

According to the research, the way we use the rooms in our home is starting to change as our busy lifestyles evolve.

A spokesman for the study said: "The kitchen has now overtaken the dining room as the hub of family life. In fact, we now spend more than three times as many hours in there than any other room in the house other than the lounge – highlighting just how important the space is becoming to modern family life."

"One in 20 of us has even moved house to get our hands on a bigger kitchen."

Hotpoint's research has found that:

- 14 per cent of people have yet to feel a sense of home ownership about where they live.
- 37 per cent of people questioned lack confidence when it comes to interior design.
- 38 per cent of people like their home but don't feel it's stylish enough.
- 26 per cent of people say that the economic climate has prevented them from making



ANOTHER FINE MESS: Brits lack confidence in their interior-design abilities and are embarrassed about their homes

the improvements their home needs, with over 16 per cent not moving house because of the downturn.

Launching the Hotpoint Hot Style campaign, Kelly Hoppen said: "My kitchen is the heart of my home – my dining room is virtually redundant now as I entertain all my friends and family in my kitchen."

"I want to show that creating a lovely, stylish kitchen needn't be daunting or expensive. That's why I've teamed up with Hotpoint to help create some Hot Style in kitchens throughout the UK."

Lisa Curran, Hotpoint's communications manager, said: "Hotpoint has launched this campaign with Kelly Hoppen as we think it's really important that people feel proud about their homes."

"Kelly's tips show that interior design need not be intimidating and can be done to suit all budgets. The findings from our research are really reflective of how family life is evolving; the fact that the dining room is being used less and less and that the kitchen is turning into more of a family room, highlights a move away from formality for us Brits."

Conti-rental trend reaches 18-30s

EIGHTEEN- to 30-year-olds are more likely to rent than their parents according to new research by the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

A survey of over 1,800 people revealed that 31 per cent of 18- to 30-year-olds had rented three or four properties, while only 17.5 per cent of their older counterparts had rented a similar number at the same age.

A third of 18-30s who currently live in rented accommodation said they enjoy independence from property ties. A further 31.6 per cent enjoyed the flexibility to move around.

However, only eight per cent thought it was

not important to eventually own a property.

There were more men who had never paid rent for a property – 32.3 per cent had opted to stay in the family home – while 75 per cent of females were making their own way in the world and had either bought or were in rented accommodation.

Young females were keener to get on the property ladder with 45.2 per cent having bought before they turned 25, while only 32 per cent of men could claim the same. 21 per cent of 18 to 30s stated that they wanted to continue renting for the foreseeable future.

Ian Potter, operations manager of ARLA,

said: "The research reveals a generation that wants to be upwardly mobile and free from ties. Attitudes towards renting have changed in the UK and we're becoming more like our fellow Europeans, who rent rather than buy."

"This trend of being 'conti-rental' recognises that renting should no longer be perceived as a waste of money, but simply as an alternative lifestyle choice to being tied to property for the long-term."

"Today's graduates, more than ever, are looking for work that involves travel and opportunities to move around, renting allows them to operate more freely in a flexible job market."

LEARN HOW ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE HOME CAN BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH. SEARCH MONEY @ propertyforkent.co.uk

'Once You've Discovered The Beautiful Isle Of



Broadstairs £200,000

THE PERFECT SEA SIDE RETREAT!

This two bedroom semi detached cottage is being offered with no forward chain and boasts well proportioned living accommodation comprising lounge/diner, farmhouse style fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a well appointed bathroom. It also boasts a decked private courtyard style garden and gas central heating. This home is situated in one of Broadstairs most sought after locations and is within 300 meters of the picturesque viking bay



Broadstairs £350,000

OUTSTANDING SEA VIEWS.....

This first floor balcony apartment has the most spectacular sea views and is located directly on the seafront within the prestigious North Foreland Private Estate. The current vendors have improved this desirable apartment without compromise, offering direct sea views from most rooms, this apartment comprises two bedrooms, white bathroom suite, spacious lounge, quality fitted kitchen / diner, private parking and a large sun terrace overlooking the sea.



Broadstairs £325,000

LOOKING FOR CENTRAL BROADSTAIRS....LOOK NO FURTHER

This beautifully maintained property is offered to the market with no forward chain and is situated in central Broadstairs within easy reach of the town centre and sandy beaches at Viking Bay. This ideal second home comprises three double bedrooms, ensuite to master, family bathroom, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, conservatory, rear courtyard garden and off road parking for two cars.



Ramsgate Reduced To £210,000

GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

This three bedroom family home is situated in the popular residential area of St Lawrence. This home offers spacious living accommodation comprising a beautifully fitted kitchen/breakfast room with contemporary style units, a separate cloakroom and a bright and airy living room with French doors leading onto the rear garden.



Broadstairs £450,000

SECLUDED LOCATION, BEAUTIFUL SETTING & FULL OF CHARM

This period detached house is located in a much sought after location just off of Reading Street, known as Trinity Square in Broadstairs. Offered to the market with no forward chain, this property offers character and charm and comprises four double bedrooms, bathroom, ensuite shower room, three reception rooms, cloakroom, double garage, 130' rear gardens and a swimming pool.



Broadstairs £155,000

HOW TO GET ONTO THE PROPERTY LADDER.....

This immaculately presented first floor maisonette is located in a much sought after location, just off of the town in Broadstairs. Magdalen Court is a desirable development of similar properties in a cul-de-sac location, offering plenty of parking and pretty well maintained communal gardens. This particular property has a light and airy lounge / diner and separate kitchen on the first floor and two double bedrooms with a bathroom on the second floor plus a garage en bloc.



Broadstairs Reduced To £1,200,000

WAKE UP TO THE SOUND OF THE SEA

This clifftop marine residence has exceptional sea views across Kingsgate Bay at Broadstairs. There is a wealth of opportunity with this property - currently comprising four bedrooms, lounge, dining room, kitchen / diner, study, two ensuites & bathroom, indoor swimming pool & spa, triple garage, approx 0.89 acre gardens and full planning consent to erect a first floor extension.



Broadstairs Reduced To £650,000

DO NOT MISS THIS.....

Shore House is a detached residence which is on the prestigious North Foreland Private Estate. Located in Cliff Road, this home has been refurbished by the current owners and comprises four double bedrooms, ensuite to master, bathroom, hallway, lounge, kitchen / diner, dining room, utility room, separate cloakroom, approximately 90' rear garden and a double garage.



Broadstairs £180,000

YOUR PERFECT HOLIDAY RETREAT

This delightful end terrace town house is situated in the tucked away courtyard development of the highly regarded Stone House in Broadstairs. An ideal holiday home, this property comprises two bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge, dining hall, kitchen, garage and manicured communal gardens. This property is situated within easy reach of the sandy beaches at Joss and Stone bay.



Kingsgate Reduced To £595,000

NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER.....

This detached cottage is located in the heart of Kingsgate and has been lovingly extended by the current owners. This residence comprises four double bedrooms, large family bathroom & ensuite, 30' lounge with vaulted ceiling, separate dining room, large family kitchen / diner, utility room, 170' rear gardens and driveway providing off road parking for approximately 8+ cars.



Ramsgate £800,000

ATTENTION ALL LORDS AND LADIES.....

An imposing period townhouse located in probably one of the most prominent positions overlooking the Royal Harbour and Marina. The property comprises four bedrooms, various reception rooms all with direct sea views, several bathrooms, top of the range fitted kitchen, separate flatlet incorporating a living room / bedroom, new kitchen and spacious bathroom plus an unexpected addition of a roof garden to the top tier, offering some of the best views around.



Broadstairs £750,000

THE FAMILY HOME YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

This detached Edwardian residence is situated in one of Broadstairs most sought after residential areas. This spacious and delightful home comprises a grand entrance hall, lounge with sea views, dining room, kitchen, utility room, conservatory, two family bathrooms and six bedrooms. To the exterior of the property you have gardens which surround the house as well as a detached double garage and private driveway.



Call Now to arrange your viewing:-
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Land & New Homes 01843 603666
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Thanet - You'll Want to Make It Your Home'



Westbrook £490,000

EXECUTIVE FAMILY HOME BY THE SEA!

This beautifully presented detached family home is situated within only 500 yards of the picturesque beach and cliff top walks. Arranged over two floors and comprises two receptions, lounge/diner, family room, contemporary style bespoke fitted kitchen/breakfast room with integrated appliances, conservatory and a cloakroom W.C. Four generous size bedrooms, with two boasting private balconies. It also benefits from beautifully kept front and rear gardens.



Cliftonville £155,950

SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW WITH NO FORWARD CHAIN!

This delightful two bedroom semi detached bungalow is being offered with NO FORWARD CHAIN and is situated within only half a mile radius of the local shops, park and beach. This bungalow offers good size living accommodation comprising 18'3" living room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and well appointed bathroom. This home also boasts gas central heating, fully double glazed, garage and front and rear gardens.



Manston £299,950

DELIGHTFULL BARN CONVERSION IN RURAL LOCATION!

This stunning new home is located in the exclusive new development of Vincent Farm Mews within only a two mile radius of Broadstairs, Ramsgate and Margate towns. This attractive property offers a high standard and comprises a beautifully finished kitchen/diner with integrated appliances, living room, cloakroom and grand entrance hall. On the first floor there are three bedrooms with master en suite, a well appointed family bathroom and a mezzanine area.



Manston £299,950

DELIGHTFULL NEW HOME IN RURAL LOCATION!

This stunning new home is located in the exclusive new development of Vincent Farm Mews which is situated in the idyllic rural village of Manston within only a two mile radius of Broadstairs, Ramsgate and Margate towns. It offers generous size living accommodation finished to a high standard and comprises a beautifully finished kitchen/diner with integrated appliances, living room, cloakroom and grand entrance hall. Four bedrooms with master en suite.



Garlinge £175,000

BEUTIFULLY PRESENTED FAMILY HOME!

This stunning three bedroom semi detached home offers generous size living accommodation and is presented in immaculate condition. It comprises an impressive lounge/diner, a beautifully presented modern style fitted kitchen, three bedrooms including a master bedroom, family bathroom and separate W.C. The benefits of this home also include an integrated garage front and rear gardens, gas central heating and off street parking for two cars.



Margate £230,000

FOUR BEDROOM FAMILY HOME!

This delightful four bedroom semi detached family home is situated in a popular residential area of Margate within only a quarter a mile radius of the beach, park and train station. It offers generous size living accommodation comprising lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom/w.c, four bedrooms and a well appointed family bathroom. It also benefits from a detached garage, off street parking, front and rear gardens and gas central heating.



Garlinge Reduced To £168,500

RECENTLY REFURBISHED TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW!

This home offers good size living accommodation comprising 16' lounge, two bedrooms, kitchen and family bathroom. To the outside of the property you have a driveway for 3/4 cars, garage, well maintained front and rear gardens. This property would be ideal for anyone wanting to get onto the property ladder, looking to down size or a buy to let. Viewing can be arranged via our offices which are open 7 days a week on 01843 834455



Birchington £96,950

AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY, HOLIDAY HOME OR INVESTMENT

A well presented ground floor purpose built apartment situated in a popular residential area of Birchington. This apartment offers an open plan living, dining and kitchen area, one double bedroom and a good sized bathroom. Outside, there are manicured lawned communal gardens and allocated parking for one car. Offered with VACANT POSSESSION.



Cliftonville Reduced To £165,000

MOVE STRAIGHT IN.....

A great opportunity to acquire this immaculately presented two bedroom first floor retirement apartment which is situated in popular residential area of Cliftonville. Offering sea views from some of the rooms, this apartment comprises two double bedrooms, a 23' lounge / diner, fitted kitchen with some appliances, a modern bathroom suite, communal amenities and parking.



Cliftonville £650,000

PERFECT FOR ALL THE FAMILY.

This substantial six bedroom detached house is situated in one of the most popular avenues of Cliftonville. This spacious home is arranged over three floors and comprises a large entrance hall, lounge, games room, conservatory, study, utility room, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, six bedrooms, en-suite and dressing room to master and a family bathroom. To the exterior you have off road parking for three cars, garage and workshop and an approx. 200' rear garden.



Minster £160,000

LOOKING FOR AN IDYLIC VILLAGE BUILDING PLOT? WELL HERE IT IS.....

Your opportunity to acquire a sizeable individual building plot with planning consent for the erection of a five bedroom detached house and double garage. Located on the outskirts of the idyllic bustling village of Minster, within approximately six miles of Ramsgate, six miles of Sandwich and fourteen miles of Canterbury. The property has been designed in order to take full advantage of its picturesque rural surroundings.



Westbrook Reduced To £190,000

LOOKING FOR A PROJECT?

This detached bungalow is set on a corner plot and located in a residential area in Westbrook. Offered with VACANT POSSESSION, this property would benefit from some internal updating but has great potential of becoming a lovely home. The property comprises two double bedrooms, lounge, kitchen / diner, bathroom, separate w.c., garage, driveway and 50' x 25' rear garden.



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BROADSTAIRS £399,950

- Amazing value
- 5 bed 3 bath 3 receptions
- dbl gge great location



WESTBROOK £285,000

- Sought after avenue location
- stunningly presented throughout
- five beds & sunny back garden



KINGSGATE £375,000

- Substantial 5 Bed Detached
- 200 Yards From Botany Bay
- Superb Garden With Splashpool



PALM BAY £194,995

- 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- 15' Conservatory
- Close to the Sea!



MARGATE £194,995

- 7 bed semi detached home
- Close to schools, shops & amenities
- CHAIN FREE



BROADSTAIRS £199,000

- Just off Broadstairs Seafrost
- 2 bed duplex
- newly converted no chain



BROADSTAIRS £205,000

- 3 bed detached
- Spacious throughout
- NO CHAIN



BROADSTAIRS £275,000

- Location..location..location
- 3 bedrooms
- two conservatories



BROADSTAIRS £178,000

- Ideally located for schools & town
- 3 bedrooms 2 receptions
- 40' rear garden



BROADSTAIRS £395,000

- Approx 1/2 Acre
- Glorious Location
- 4 Beds 2 Receptions



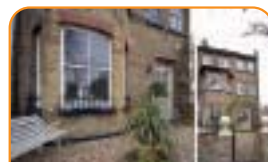
WESTGATE-ON-SEA £265,000

- Stunning family home
- abundance of original features
- 6 beds & central location



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £249,995

- Central Village Location
- 5 Beds & 4 Storeys
- Luxury fitted kitchen diner



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £249,995

- Stunning victorian family home
- 5 beds & 2 bathrooms
- gch & garage



MARGATE £275,000

- Substantial family home
- 5 bedrooms & sea views
- suds, gch & no forward chain



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £124,995

- Two double bedrooms
- backing onto open farmland
- no forward chain



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £274,995

- Substantial family home
- 4/5 bedrooms, osp & garage
- fitted kitchen & conservatory



PALM BAY £159,995

- 2 Bed Det Bungalow
- Close to the Sea!
- NO CHAIN!!!



PALMBAY £174,995

- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Close to Botany Bay Beach
- Cul-De-Sac Location



KINGSGATE £199,995

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- 130' Rear garden + Det Garage
- Off Street PKG For 4 Cars+



PALMBAY £155,995

- 2 bed semi detached
- Close to Park & Library
- No forward chain



KINGSGATE £174,995

- Three bedroom period home
- only 500 yards from Botany Bay
- Approx 150' rear garden



ST PETERS £144,995

- Retirement Bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms
- Cul de sac location



CLIFTONVILLE £109,995

- Modernised 2 bed apartment
- Sought-after location !!
- Partial sea views !!



MARGATE £129,995

- Deceptively spacious house
- Popular location
- No Forward Chain



CLIFTONVILLE £174,990

- 3 storey terraced home
- Ideal central location
- Deceptively spacious family home



CLIFTONVILLE £299,995

- Beautiful 4 bed semi-detached
- Located in the 'Avenues'
- Completely modernised



CLIFTONVILLE £94,995

- 1st floor flat with sea views !!
- No Forward Chain
- Modernised throughout



PALM BAY COURT £129,995

- Stunning direct sea views
- 2 beds, Lift in block
- No Forward Chain



GARLINGE £112,000

- Two Bed Period Cottage
- Ideal Location
- CHAIN FREE!



MARGATE £119,995

- Two bed ideal starter home
- In need of modernization
- Sought after location



MARGATE £134,995

- Deceptive 3 bed period home
- Arranged over three floors
- Excellent decorative order



MARGATE £150,000

- Spacious 4 bedrooms
- Generous living space
- Good condition throughout



WESTBROOK £174,995

- Freehold Commercial Premises
- Spacious 2 Bedroom
- Apartment over



WESTBROOK £194,995

- Stunning 6 bed period home
- Close to seafrost, shops & amenities
- CHAIN FREE!

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RAMSGATE £214,995

- 4 bedroom period property
- No Forward Chain
- Sought after location



RAMSGATE £274,995

- Four bed detached family home
- Ramsgate / Broadstairs borders
- No onward chain



RAMSGATE £329,995

- High Standard 4 bed detached
- 20" conservatory - 2 rec rooms
- Sought after position - Large gds



MINNIS BAY £430,000

- Beautiful Detached Home
- 100 Meters from Beach & Sea
- 3/4 Bedrooms, Garage & OSP



RAMSGATE £319,995

- Imposing Detached Victorian Home
- 4/5 Bedrooms with Annexe
- No Chain Involved



RAMSGATE £119,995

- Three Bedrooms
- No forward Chain
- Viewing recommended



RAMSGATE £124,995

- Three bed semi detached
- Central heated & double glazed
- No forward chain



RAMSGATE £139,995

- 3 Bed semi detached house
- Close to Railway Station
- No forward station



RAMSGATE £169,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Original features
- Viewing recommended



RAMSGATE £159,995

- Three bedrooms
- Extended semi detached house
- Large garden



RAMSGATE £139,995

- Two bedroom apartment with
- Panoramic seaviews
- No forwarded chain



BROADSTAIRS £239,950

- Four bedroom detached home
- Off street parking & garage
- Cul de sac location



RAMSGATE £154,995

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge, Dining rm & Conservatory
- Garage



RAMSGATE £194,995

- Four bedrooms
- En suite to master
- No onward chain



RAMSGATE £174,995

- Two bed detached bungalow
- Recently refurbished
- No onward chain



RAMSGATE £189,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off street parking and garage



MONKTON £135,000

- Charming Period Cottage
- High Standard decor
- Rural aspect



MINSTER £179,995

- Three bed Chalet Home
- Opposite the church
- Sought After location



ACOL £169,995

- Beautiful 3 bed semi
- sought after Acol
- NO CHAIN - Garage



RAMSGATE £169,995

- lovely 3 Bed Semi
- Sought Afer position
- Garage & OSP



MINSTER £179,995

- Three bed bungalow
- Heart of Minster
- Very sought after



MINSTER £184,995

- 3 bed Period home
- Original features
- over 100" gardens



MINSTER £209,995

- A 2 bed detached bungalow
- old part of Minster
- large conservatory - No Chain



MARGATE £110,000

- 2 Double Bedrooms
- OSP + Private Gardens
- Private Gated Development



MARGATE £109,995

- 3 Bedroom Townhouse
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- DG/GCH. Close to Town



BIRCHINGTON £92,500

- Purpose Built Flat
- One Double Bedroom
- Allocated Parking



BIRCHINGTON £84,995

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Walking Distance To Station
- Off Street Parking



CLIFTONVILLE £235,000

- Stunning character home
- many original features
- 4/5 bedrooms + osp



BIRCHINGTON £300,000

- Un-Interrupted Sea Views
- Sought After Location
- 4 Bedrooms/2 Receptions



RAMSGATE £109,995

- 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Good Order Internally + Garage
- No Chain Involved



RAMSGATE £112,500

- Two Bedroom Victorian Terrace
- Good Order Internally
- Convenient Location



RAMSGATE £144,995

- 3 bedroom Terraced Home
- 2 Receptions & Kitchen
- Southwood Location



RAMSGATE £159,995

- Modern 2 Bedroom Home
- Immaculate Condition
- Garden & Allocated Parking



RAMSGATE £199,995

- Stunning 2 Bed Apartment
- 2 Receptions, En-suite
- Unique Vaulted Ceilings & Features



RAMSGATE £154,995

- 3 Bedroom Victorian Terrace
- Some Modernisation Required
- No Chain Involved



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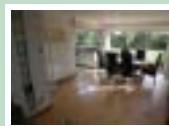
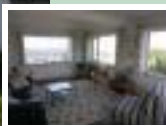
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Semi Rural £399,950

Five bed detached country house with farmhouse kitchen
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**Westgate On Sea £129,950**

One Bedroom First Floor Flat With 19'
Lounge, 32' Balcony And Modern Fitted
Kitchen And Bathroom.

**Birchington £149,995**

Two bedroom apartment with 17ft
lounge/diner and fitted kitchen. Situated
approx. 350 yards from mainline station.

**Acol £299,995**

4 bedroom detached house with garage
and driveway. Approx. 90ft rear garden.
Rural village location with sweeping views.

**Palm Bay £184,995**

4 bed end terrace house. Well maintained family
home. Allocated parking plus garage. Mature
front & rear gardens. Popular residential location.

**Broadstairs £229,995**

Three bed architect designed Erno Goldfinger
family home. Fitted kitchen +2 reception rooms.
120ft rear garden. Garage & parking. No chain.

**Birchington £325,000**

4 bedroom detached chalet bungalow set in
approx. 1/5 acre with garage + parking.
Approx. 200 yards from sea front.

**Westbrook £299,995**

1930's detached home with three bedrooms + two
reception rooms. 55ft rear garden. Off road parking.
Approx. 350 yards from Westbrook Sands.

**Cliftonville £335,995**

Period six bedroom terraced house with
original features. Outstanding sea views.
Two garages. No onward chain.

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Broadstairs

- Stunning 5 Bed, 4 Bathroom & 3 Receptions
- Set In Lovely Grounds With Summerhouse
- Double Garage With Office/Studio Room Over

.....£499,500



Minnis Bay

- Stunning location
- Stunning 3 bed home
- Stunning price

.....£359,995



Minster

- Great size Single Storey Character property
- 3 Beds, En Suite to Master, 3 Reception rooms
- Detached Garage. Immaculately Presented

.....£299,995



Birchington

- Garden Estate location, 3 Beds, Utility Room
- Conservatory, 2 Receptions. Modern fitted kitchen
- Corner plot with secluded gardens

.....£269,995



St Peters

- Beautifully presented 3 bed det family home!
- Refitted modern kitchen with breakfast bar
- Large conservatory extension

.....£235,000



Palm Bay

- What a lovely secluded location!
- Rarely available semi det home
- Ideal for all age ranges

.....£195,000



Cliffsend

- Large detached bungalow
- 2 bedrooms, 2 receptions
- Attractive gardens, off street parking

....GUIDE PRICE £190,000



Minster

- 3 Bedroom 2 Receptions + 75ft Garden
- Views Over Fields To The Rear
- Offering No Chain

.....£184,950



Minnis Bay

- Seafront Apartment with Panoramic Views
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Balcony & Garage

.....£169,995



Cliftonville

- Wonderful sea views from private balcony!
- Large 2 bed ground floor apartment
- Private gardens with exclusive use

.....£149,995



Birchington

- 3 bed Semi with garage and garden
- Scope to improve
- Ideal first time buy or investment

.....OIEO £130,000



Westbrook

- 2 bed ground floor GARDEN flat
- Under ground car parking
- Wonderful private setting

...OFFERS IN EXCESS OF: £129,950



Minnis Bay

- Spacious Ground Floor Garden Flat
- Close to Minnis Bay Seafront
- Newly Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom

.....OIEO £120,000



Margate

- Great first buy!
- Two bedrooms
- Central location

.....£114,995



St Nicholas-at-Wade

- 1 Bedroom ground floor apartment
- Situated in desirable village. Parking
- Decked verandah to the rear

.....O.I.E.O £105,000



Ramsgate

- What a great start to the housing ladder!
- Comfortable ground floor 1 bed flat
- Double glazed and centrally heated

....OFFERS INVITED: £79,000

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Margate £225,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Gardens & Parking
- Corner Plot



Birchington £345,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- 2 Reception Rooms & Conservatory
- Garden & Garage



Westgate £169,950

- 2 Double Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Off Road Parking & Communal Garden
- Overlooking the Garden & Sea
- Vacant Possession



Westbrook £169,995

- Overlooking the Beach
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner & Sitting Room
- Balcony & Garage



Westgate £145,000

- Stunning 2 Bedroom EOT
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Lovely Kitchen & Bathroom
- Approx 45' Garden



Birchington £199,950

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Garden & Garage
- Backs on to Golf Course
- No Forward Chain



Westgate £159,950

- 2 Double Bedroom Apartment
- En Suite & Bathroom
- Gated Entrance & Allocated Parking
- Excellent Order Throughout



Westgate £249,995

- 2/3 Bedroom Detached House
- En suite & Family Bathroom
- Garden & Garage
- Immaculate Throughout



Birchington £189,995

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Garden & Parking
- Well Presented Throughout



Westbrook Border £239,995

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- 3/4 Reception Areas
- Large Garden & Drive
- A Very Impressive Property



Manston £399,995

- 5 Bed Detached House
- Spacious Living Accommodation
- Large Family Size Garden
- Well Presented & Vacant Possession



Minster £225,000

- 3/4 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- Modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Garden & Parking
- Overlooking Farmland



Broadstairs £320,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Garden & Garage
- Well Presented Throughout



Broadstairs £299,995

- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- 2/3 Reception Rooms
- Large Rear Garden
- Highly Sought After Area



Monkton £214,995

- 3 Bedroom Period Property
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Ensuite To Master Bedroom
- Gardens & Garage



Westgate £199,950

- 3 Bedroom End of Terrace
- Ensuite & Family Bathroom
- Conservatory & Corner Plot
- Allocated Parking. Built in approx 2006



Westgate £129,995

- 2 Bedroom Period Cottage
- Cellar & Garden
- Very Well Presented
- Close to Local Amenities



Westgate £185,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Lovely Garden with Hot Tub
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Cul-De-Sac & Farmland Views



Palm Bay £120,000

- 2 Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Spacious Accommodation
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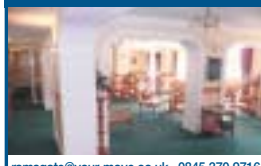
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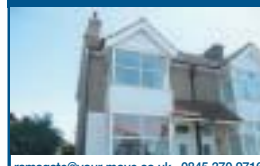
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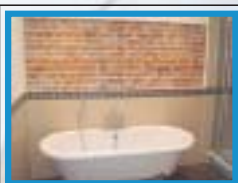


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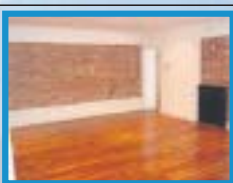
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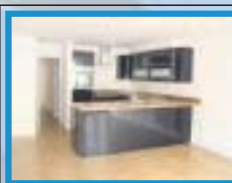
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MOTORS NEWS



Wait for sighting of the new Yeti is almost over

SKODA launches its fifth model line on September 17, when the Yeti crossover arrives, priced from £13,750 with air-con as standard.

With four trim levels and a 4x4 option though, you can pay as much as £22,120 for this rugged yet stylish newcomer.

Realistically though, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from £14,250, the start point for alloys as standard to complement the neat body design. The two or four-wheel drive and DSG options also come into play.



Golf rules apply to the all-new VW Polo

VOLKSWAGEN has created an all-new Polo supermini using striking design language already seen on the latest Golf and Scirocco Coupe.

Priced from £10,035 for the five-door model – the three-door arrives in December – order books are already open and deliveries start in October.

Apart from the elegant styling, the other main talking point on this 5th generation car is ESP (electronic stabilisation programme) as standard for enhanced safety and driving response.

Though bigger than last time, the car is lighter for better economy and emissions.



Superlighting way for a future MX-5

MAZDA has unveiled a stunning Superlight MX-5 concept.

Billed as a show car to highlight lightweight technology and underline the roadster's 20-years on the market, comments and reaction will surely be taken into account for a next generation car.

It would be nice, for instance, if the Superlight's stylish headrest nacelles appear on a future version of the world's best-selling two-seat sports car.

The current MX has just had a facelift that sharpens the styling without altering curvaceous lines carried over through three generations.



MADE IN INDIA: The new Suzuki Alto lacks refinement but is economical, spacious and a good deal cheaper alternative for people looking to cut their motoring budget

Alto misses high notes but pricing is low-key

ROAD TEST SUZUKI ALTO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

auto option though – you'll need to hoist a spinaker and run before the wind to hit 60mph in less than 17 seconds – but £600 extra for the auto is a reasonable premium if you must have an easy-driving city runabout.

I like the car's wheel-at-each-corner design, which delivers the best cabin space possible and a ride with less fore and aft pitching.

The car is roomy for four with a reasonable boot and decent stowage – the big dashboard bin and centre console are particularly useful – and the high-mounted audio controls are just a span from the left hand on the wheel.

Suzuki has weighted the pliancy of the ride nicely against grip and handling. It was never intended to be a fireball, but the Alto can be piloted aggressively – albeit noisily – when required and the lack of cornering sag is impressive.

Running costs should be ridiculously low with a potential for averaging 60mpg and insurance groupings of 1-2, though the car misses out narrowly on escaping road tax of £35/year.

Our test car was the SZ4 flagship (£7,960), but the various extras don't do much to justify a price tag that brings impressive rivals into play.

The sub-£7,000 SZ2 might be the better bet for those keen to cut their motoring budget.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's No1 through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For secondhand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power – including the rapid ST – trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupe convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA COROLLA



TOYOTA chopped the Corolla in 2007 in favour of the Auris, but the latter has all the same virtues and disadvantages. More than any other model, the Corolla made Toyota the world's No1 carmaker – it was affordable and durable, but a little dull. There is plenty of engine and body choice though and even racy versions, though the car pretty much does what it says on the tin. Corolla prices have eased too with its perception as a 'deleted' model.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MAZDA3



MAZDA'S link with Ford means that a lot of Focus resided beneath the skin of the first and newly-replaced Mazda3 and that means neat handling. But the Mazda stands out visually from its ubiquitous half-sister, a fact not lost on used car buyers looking for something distinctive. The '3' is mostly found as a capacious hatchback, but there is also a sporty saloon. Engines are lively, in line with Mazda's sporty 'Zoom-Zoom' image – look out for the MPS hot hatch.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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DAEWOO

LEGANZA, CDX AUTO, 1998, silver, 80000 miles, £1495, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, 2004, met blue, 50234 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2, 2002, burnt orange, 52651 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec 5dr BRAND NEW UNREGISTERED, TERMS APPLY, g109leo, terms apply, metallic ocean. abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, radio/cd, blue, 5 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 136ps 5dr "AUTOMATIC SPORT PACK", ca08cwu, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sony all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, 18 alloys, sports pack, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, spoiler, blue, 0 miles, £15000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

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ESCORT, 1998, green, 86786 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, lx, 1998, met green, 61000 miles, £800, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 2000, blue, 75000 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 3000 miles, £12495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2003, metropolis blue, 51800 miles, £4795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 14957 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Ghia 1.6 TDCi, 2006, tango red, 17000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.3 Finesse, 2003, moon dust silver, 61000 miles, £3995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 1000 miles, £11495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, moon dust silver, 2000 miles, £10995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4 TDCi Zetec, 2009, hot magenta, 2400 miles, £12795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 17586 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2007, moon dust silver, 14000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Ghia Automatic, 2006, moon dust silver, 10000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, amethyst, 39400 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, vision, 1500 miles, £11795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Titanium 3dr*****INDIVIDUAL*****, g109dou, metallic hot magenta. abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, passenger airbag, remote locking, radio/cd, individual leather pack, quickclear heated screen, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, contact the used car team for more help, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, balance of 3 year warranty, bluetooth, full leather, power folding door mirrors, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers, adjustable seats, anti theft system, climate control, colour coding body, colour coding interior, head restraints, heated screen, leather seats, leather upholstery, immobiliser, metallic pai, red, 7000 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr, g105ybn, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:6, silver, 40828 miles, £5495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr - FORD DIRECT, g158hix, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:7, black, 17220 miles, £11495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi Sport 5dr [110] [Euro 4], air con, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, pas, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:6, black, 44055 miles, £7990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)



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FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto, n158tlk, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, remote locking, insurance group:7, grey, 10999 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Zetec 5dr (Climate), en08ccu, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:5, silver, 6164 miles, £8990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr - AUTO [140] - P/A & PRIVACY, n08bWv, front and rear assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:11, silver, 19120 miles, £15995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Auto [140], n08bZh, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:11, silver, 15522 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Auto [140], n08bWj, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:11, silver, 15520 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr (Climate), is07tjx, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, insurance group:3, blue, 24101 miles, £9990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Style [70] 3dr (Climate), oe07jpx, air conditioning, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel. insurance group:3, blue, 25637 miles, £5790, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Zetec [70] 3dr (Climate) - AC & QUICKCLEAR, gl08th, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel. insurance group:3, blue, 25637 miles, £5790, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium X 5dr [140] Auto***"AUTOMATIC***, kr58zgd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:9, silver, 9609 miles, £16490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, eo58wn, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:9, silver, 9609 miles, £16490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van TDCi 125ps, b07evm, panel van, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, day cab, finance available, full dealer facilities, ply lined, swb, factory fitted bulk head, hp-leasing, white, 45600 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 280 SWB Low Roof Van ***SWB***, na55ebo, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp-leasing, ply lined, swb, warranty, white, 18036 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Tipper TDi 90ps DRW***"TIPPER***350***, n156fsg, tipper, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, remote locking, 1 year warranty and roadside assistance, lwb, white, 26197 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport 5dr, gi07vde, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:10, silver, 29800 miles, £12395, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0 i v-tec se sport auto, 2002, black with black half leather, 88000 miles, £4999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0 i v-tec se sport auto, 2002, black with black half leather, 88000 miles, £4999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.0d Sport Premium 4dr, bp54bkz, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, headlight washers, heated seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:14, silver, 37000 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

XJ, 3.0 v6 se auto, 2003, blue metallic with sand leather, 49000 miles, £10999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

JEEP

CHEROKEE, 2.8 CRD Limited 5dr Auto, ko06awz, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:13, black, 51200 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

RANGE ROVER, 2005, blue metallic with beige leather with pipping, 40600 miles, £23999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER, 1996, green metallic with grey full leather, 100000 miles, £2400, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MERCEDES BENZ

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 7000 miles, £12980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, polar silver metallic, 5000 miles, £13290, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, Avantgarde SE Manual 3 DR Avantgarde SE, 2006, polar silver metallic, 33023 miles, £8890, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, atoll blue metallic, 43116 miles, £8490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 3000 miles, £14497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, mountain grey metallic, 3500 miles, £15497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A160, 5dr Classic SE#REDUCED#, 2009, horizon blue metallic, 3000 miles, £16498, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A160, 5dr Classic SE#REDUCED#, 2009, polar silver metallic, 3000 miles, £12995, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 5000 miles, £13390, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 DOOR Elegance SE, 2007, polar silver metallic, 13050 miles, £10998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A170, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, mistral blue, 5000 miles, £15994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

A170, EleganceSE Manual 5 DR Elegance SE, 2006, atoll blue metallic, 22439 miles, £9490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A170, Avantgarde SE Manual 5 DR Avantgarde SE, 2005, polar silver metallic, 22300 miles, £8990, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, 3 DOOR Avantgarde SE, 2008, mistral blue, 7300 miles, £13250, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2005, obsidian black metallic, 19202 miles, £14994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 12755 miles, £20979, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2009, tansanite blue metallic, 4500 miles, £27995, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 12500 miles, £20497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, obsidian black, 16644 miles, £15497, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde (2 years free servicing), 2008, iridium silver, 9978 miles, £20997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 5000 miles, £25994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 11872 miles, £24494, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2008, iridium silver, 8754 miles, £20494, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde (2 years free servicing), 2008, columbite black, 2457 miles, £20998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, "REDUCED", 2009, obsidian black metallic, 5500 miles, £24997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde #2 years Free Service#, 2008, columbite black, 11869 miles, £20998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Blue#EFFICIENCY SE#REDUCED#, 2009, obsidian black metallic, 5000 miles, £25998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver, 26772 miles, £17998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde #2 years free service#, 2008, indium grey, 13643 miles, £21498, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 6523 miles, £23998, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, Avantgarde, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 24100 miles, £18249, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

E220 CDI, 2009, palladium silver metallic, 8000 miles, £22990, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

SL350, ROADSTER, 2009, thulite red metallic, 100 miles, £56490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

SL55 AMG, ROADSTER, 2007, obsidian black metallic, 15500 miles, £58900, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

SLK200 KOMPRESSOR, 2005, obsidian black metallic, 30672 miles, £16997, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

MG

TF, 2002, blue with half leather, 42000 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, black metallic with black and beige tone leath, 50000 miles, £6999, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, lb08uaw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear rest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, silver, 33500 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.3 C22 ClearTec 5dr, gk09wnl, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:5, blue, 3000 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

COLT, 1.3 C22 3dr, gk09nwm, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:5, white, 6000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

I-CAR, 5dr Auto, gns7uta, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, tinted glass, reduced from, black, 14000 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, Double Cab Di-D Diamond 4WD Auto 165Bhp, fe57zht, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, navigation system, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. insurance group:19, blue, 21500 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:3, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car saving , silver, 9000 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, ko08zrf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, mc08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, mc08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, mc08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, mc08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, mc08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:11, grey, 12000 miles, £17995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr, mc08czx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, folding rear seats, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:11, silver, 17300 miles, £15495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, 11 2.0 Di-DC Warrior 5dr "Leather", wv08bya, electric mirrors, leather gearknob, tinted windows, airbag double + side, cd player, fog lights, electricdoor mirrors, metallic paint, leather steering wheel, 18 light alloy wheels, adjustable seat height, air-conditioning, boardcomputer, silver, 3000 miles, £18495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 Di-D Elegance 5dr Auto, g56elx, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear rest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, silver, 33500 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 Di-D Elegance 5dr Auto, g56elx, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear rest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, silver, 33500 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NAVARA, Pickup 2.5 dCi 174 Outlaw, ak58kby, cloth, carbon, 17" alloy wheels, active front headrest system, cd autchanger, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, driver's airbag, electric heated door mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp washers, keyless entry with anti-hi-jack function, nissan anti-theft system, passenger airbag, privacy glass (rear side windows), roof rails, side steps, trip computer, silver, 6000 miles, £15995,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 Di-DC Diamond 5dr Auto, gk07vyt, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, climate control, colour coding body, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, dvd, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, limited slip differential, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, navigation system, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, traction control, green, 20395 miles, £20495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 Di-D Elegance 5dr Auto "Ralliart Upgrade", lv56hpk, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear armrest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, grey, 24750 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6 GT Pack, mfs7vzp, leather, charcoal, 18" alloy wheels, 6 cd autchanger, air-conditioning, alarm, Bose audio system, Brembo disc brakes, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, electric heated front seats, electronic stability program (esp), front side and curtain airbags, power assisted steering (pas), remote control keyless entry, trip computer, xenon headlamps, universal silver, 9000 miles, £18495,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

ALMERA, 2.2d se+., 2001, silver, 0 miles, £2395, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIGARO, 1.0 turbo auto, 1990, green and white with white leather, 132000 miles, £4799, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, oe06pfn, cloth, carbon, 16" alloy wheels, 6 cd autchanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic light system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front fog lamps, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, caf? latte, 13000 miles, £8795,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, nc08czx, cloth, carbon, 16" alloy wheels, 6 cd autchanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic lighting system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front fog lamps, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, caf? latte, 13000 miles, £8795,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 16v 80PS TEKNA, nc08czx, cloth, carbon, 16" alloy wheels, 6 cd autchanger, air-conditioning, anti-lock braking system (abs), automatic lighting system, automatic rain sensing wipers, battery save, bluetooth integration, body coloured bumpers, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, body coloured roof spoiler, brake assist, central door locking, drive computer, driver's and passengers airbag, electric brake distribution (ebd), electricdoor mirrors, electric front windows, engine immobiliser, friendly lighting system, front fog lamps, headlamp levelling, keyless entry with superlocking, power assisted steering (pas), rear park system, tilt adjustable steering wheel, tinted front headlamp covers, pacific blue, 10500 miles, £8995,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 S 3dr Auto, gk04knx, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, driver airbag, electric windows, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:2, grey, 37500 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NAVARA, Pickup 2.5 dCi 174 Outlaw, ak58kby, cloth, carbon, 17" alloy wheels, active front headrest system, cd autchanger, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, driver's airbag, electric heated door mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp washers, keyless entry with anti-hi-jack function, nissan anti-theft system, passenger airbag, privacy glass (rear side windows), roof rails, side steps, trip computer, silver, 6000 miles, £15995,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

NAVARA, Pickup 2.5 dCi 174 Outlaw, ak58kby, cloth, carbon, 17" alloy wheels, active front headrest system, cd autchanger, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, driver's airbag, electric heated door mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp washers, keyless entry with anti-hi-jack function, nissan anti-theft system, passenger airbag, privacy glass (rear side windows), roof rails, side steps, trip computer, silver, 6000 miles, £15995,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

NAVARA, Pickup 2.5 dCi 174 Outlaw, ak58kby, cloth, carbon, 17" alloy wheels, active front headrest system, cd autchanger, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, driver's airbag, electric heated door mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp washers, keyless entry with anti-hi-jack function, nissan anti-theft system, passenger airbag, privacy glass (rear side windows), roof rails, side steps, trip computer, silver, 6000 miles, £15995,000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

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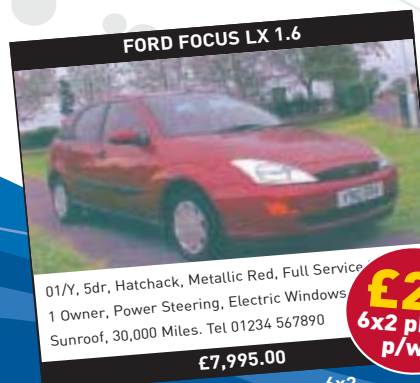
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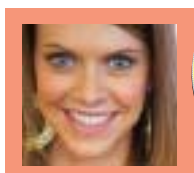
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WOMEN seeking men

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
Young lady, 20, enjoys meals out, cinema and socialising with friends. WLTW a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne Box 454247

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER
Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453269

MATCH OF THE DAY!
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY
Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTW white British male, 29-34, no lies, for long-term relationship. Box 883451

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE
Loving lovely female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

SEEKING MR DARCY
Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?
31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTW cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879391

HORSES FOR COURSE...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!
Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877357

GOOD LUCK CHARM
Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, wltw similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...
Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SOUND GOOD?
Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

HAPPY DAYS!
Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 380734

SEALED WITH A KISS
Petite lady, 36, with blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks lovely, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

STARRY NIGHTS
Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

SOMETHING LASTING
Professional single woman, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Hailsham Box 455221

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, and WLTW honest, reliable man. Box 451311

HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666



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MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

CUTE AS CAN BE
Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

A SOUL MATE
Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

PERFECT MATCH
Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine. Box 453374

TO THE STARS
Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40, and I like going out, astrology, writing, and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453877

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wltw a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

SMILE!
Looking for a fun-loving guy for a LTR. I'm 41, works as a dental nurse, easy to get on with, always up for fun times. Sittingbourne Box 454827

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

BETWEEN US
Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?
Shy but confident-once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY
Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

LOVE IS ALL AROUND
Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

HELLO EVERYONE!
Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTW a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569

ACTIVE TYPE
Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, wltw mixed race/black pet, to share good times with. Box 451819

LET'S DATE!
Hard-working woman, 42, WLTW a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327

BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTW a gent to socialise with. Box 878250

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457

LOVE TO MEET YOU
Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy, I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!
Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, fun-loving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, walking, local gigs. WLTW the right man for TLC. Box 880280

STARTING OVER
Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTW a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141

MISS THIS MISS OUT
Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, wltw like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 430403

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

RELIGHT MY FIRE
Young professional widow, 46, own home, tall, attractive, green eyes/fair hair, enjoys all the good things in life. Looking for a fun-loving romantic guy. Box 876575

FROM THIS MOMENT
Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, -5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591

HOPING YOUR THE ONE
Petite, outgoing blonde, 46, GSOH, looking for a caring, compassionate man who will be my soulmate and hopefully my life partner. Box 454710

HEART AND SOUL
Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

SOUND GOOD?
Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186

LOOK THIS WAY!
Slim single mum, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, works full time, friendly and easy-going, WLTW lots of new friends, hopefully someone special. Box 878466

STIMULATING COMPANY
Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, wltw nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 398829

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952

A WONDERFUL IDEA
Professional lady, 49, n/s, with manners and a heart, good-looking, hazel eyes, blonde hair, likes cinema, weekends away and walks, WLTW my soul mate! Maidstone Box 455682

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

LOVELY BUBBLY
Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

BRING ME TO LIFE
Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832

NO MATTER WHAT
Nice looking female, 50, looking for nice looking, solvent male, 45-50, for friendship and leading to a LTR. Box 455914

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL
Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

FIRST CONTACT
Young lady of 54, 5ft3, not of many words but hoping to get to know a man to make me smile as I will him...Whitstable. Box 455014

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

A FAIRY TALE ENDING
Bubbly blonde, 56, hazel eyes, hard working, seeking a man, 45-55, to be my knight in shining armour. Herne Bay Box 455417

SMART MOVE
Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

BEING WITH YOU
Hi I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys pub meals, countryside, the beach, cinema, seeks loving male for friendship and more. Box 453104

SHARE THE QUIET TIMES TOGETHER
62yr old attractive, well presented, happy lady, 5'2", short dark hair, slim build, love beach walks, picnics, music, cosy nights, with a like-minded, genuine male. Box 455635

COUNTRY ROMANCE
Intelligent, bubbly, tall, dark haired, green eyed, artistic brunette, 64, looking for tall, professional man who loves the arts, socialising, town/country for friendship and maybe more. Box 876054

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG
Useful, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/active, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first. Box 434345

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764

TRUSTWORTHY
Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437



MEN seeking women

HERE FOR YOU
Decent outgoing lad, 19, likes sports, keeping fit, drinks with mates, meals, holidays, travel, theatre...seeking similar girl for loving romance. Box 455724

READ THIS!
Fun-loving, honest male, 24, 6'6", dark blond, hazel eyes, cuddly, GSOH, seeks like-minded woman, enjoys reading, movies and relaxing with friends. Box 875548

HAVE MUCH TO OFFER
23yr old guy, 6ft, medium build, dark blond hair and blue eyes, enjoys pubs, cinema, walks, keeping fit, seeking like-minded girl for friendship and more. Box 893423

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
Hastings chap, 27, 6ft3, shy, active, I like diving, rock climbing and art. Would like to meet someone to have fun with. Box 455815

MEANT TO BE, YOU AND ME?
Hi, single guy, 23, with GSOH, looking for friendship or a bit more. I love travelling and socialising, and especially films... Box 876193

I'M THE ONE!
Kind, generous and caring bloke, 31, from Folkestone, 6ft4, large build, blue eyes, enjoy socialising, cinema, eatings out, sport, seeking a like-minded girl for LTR. Box 455527

A BIT SHY...
Passionate male, 33, GSOH, likes cycling, staying fit, travel, holidays and music, seeks lady to socialise with and take on dates. Box 455801

LOVE ME TENDER
Fun-loving honest guy, 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading to honest, tender relationship. Eastbourne. Box 446200

BACK ON THE MARKET
Honest, caring 37 year old that still thinks he's 20, likes cinema, pubs, clubs and socialising; looking for a girlie girl for fun, possibly more. Box 877958

EXPLOSIVE PERSONALITY
Wicked sense of humour, old romantic, likes cycling, walking, live music, club/pubs. Sound good? I'm male, 35, seeking lady for friendship possibly more. Ramsgate. Box 908598

CAN YOU PUT UP WITH ME?
Hi all I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503

HEAVEN ABOVE
Italian man, 37, currently living in Maidstone, tall, very passionate and fun to be with, seeking a sensual woman for a LTR. Box 454418

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER
Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805

CHEEKY SOH
Unconventional, independent, successful, fun guy, 39, hazel eyes, no ties, like motorbikes, holidays, theme parks, looking for a younger, career female for lasting relationship. Ashford Box 455647

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764

TRUSTWORTHY
Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437

THE WIT TO WOO

Handsome male, 37, 6ft4, blond hair, blue eyes, looking to slowly rediscover the finer things in life. Herne Bay Box 424503

DON'T HESITATE
Hello I'm Mark, 5'8" tall brown hair and eyes very fit. Love fun in any form you can think of. Box 452898

HIYA
I'm a cute and laid-back guy, 41, 5ft8, short hair, athletic, very tactile, loving and spontaneous, likes shopping, travelling, eating in/out, hate football! Brighton. Box 450614

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL
Romantic man, 41, 5ft10, slim, average looking, looking for a lady to bring love and laughter back into my life. Canterbury Box 455342

FIT
active male, 36, 6'4", short blond hair, blue eyes, broad-minded, seeks similar female, for fun times. Box 749395

ONE STEP CLOSER
Truthful male, 43, 5ft8, brown hair/eyes, medium build, own house, enjoys most things, seeking loving woman. Brighton Box 455722

THE FOOD OF LOVE?
Modest male, 42, 6ft2 with dark hair, stocky, a chef and loving dad, loves cinema, dining out and cosy nights, seeks someone special and fun-loving. Box 450057

LET'S BUILD A ROMANCE
Hello, I'm Simon 43, single man in Kent own a construction co. Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome, looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322

IN LOVE
Single 50s male looking for lady for loving friendship. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping for lasting romance. Box 451188

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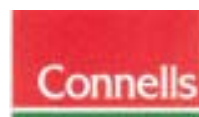
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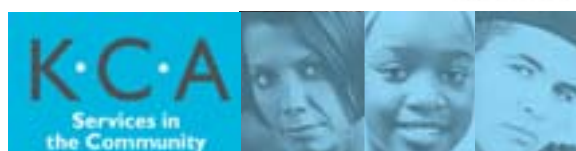
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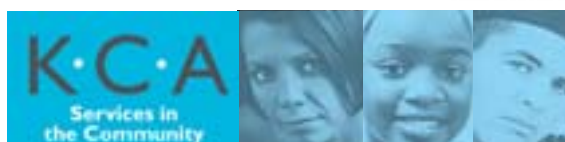
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For an application pack for any of the part-time tutor posts please contact Christine Osborne
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Closing date: 21 August 2009

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Location: Medway

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For an informal discussion, please contact Sue Hopkins on 01634 338442 or 338439 or email
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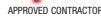
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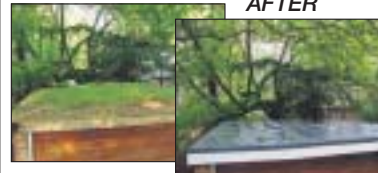
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Pictures ADY KERRY



DOWN AND OUT: Rob Key not picked to play Australia

Selectors bypass Key for decisive fifth Test

KENT'S Rob Key has once again been overlooked by the England selectors, having been left out of the squad for the crucial fifth Test against Australia.

The Kent captain was believed to be in line to replace the out-of-form Ravi Bopara for the final Ashes Test that starts at The Oval tomorrow.

While ex-players and pundits queued up to insist Key was the man to fill the spot after a return to form for his county, the England selectors decided to take a bigger gamble and pick the uncapped Jonathan Trott.

The Warwickshire batsman will bat at

CRICKET

number four, with the England selectors' 'favourite', Ian Bell, assuming the troubled number-three berth in the batting line-up.

While Key will be no doubt disappointed in not being selected for the match, he refused to blame the speculation during the course of the week on his side's poor display at Edgbaston on Twenty20 finals day.

"I have not had a moment to catch my breath, really," he said. "We came in to that game on the back of three back-to-back

championship games and after playing so badly against Middlesex we had to make sure we got a win in the championship, so I was keeping an eye on the Press, but Sunday was the first day I had had off in quite a while so it gave the chance to look back at a hectic week."

What is perhaps more surprising is the fact that off-spinner James Tredwell has failed to be talked about in terms of a call-up.

He out bowled Monty Panesar in the championship win over Northants last week with figures of ten for 100, compared with Panesar's two for 127.

Tredwell spins Kent to win at Northants

JAMES Tredwell took his 50th first-class wicket of the season as Kent wrapped up a 238-run win against Northamptonshire to go 17 points clear at the top of Division Two in the County Championship.

The Kent off-spinner claimed match figures of ten for 100, taking five wickets in both innings and registering his 57th first-class wicket of the season.

Kent scored 244 in their first innings, Key top-scoring with 90 before Tredwell claimed five for 68 to bowl Northants out for 218.

Martin van Jaarsveld then scored an unbeaten 100, with Geraint Jones hitting 93, as Kent declared on 302-5. Tredwell then spun Kent to victory on the final day with figures of five for 32 as Northants were bowled out for 90.

Kent return to championship action next Friday with the visit of Surrey to Canterbury.

Picture ADY KERRY



IN FORM: James Tredwell took a 10-wicket haul

St Lawrence hosts Ponting's Aussies

WHILE the Spitfires were busy with Twenty20 finals day, The St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury hosted Australia.

The Aussies put their final preparations together for the final Test against England at The Oval tomorrow, with a two-day game against the England Lions at Canterbury.

Kent had been due to play the tourists, but their involvement in Twenty20 finals day meant the fixture was taken up by the Lions.

It was the chance for Kent fans to see Aussie skipper Ricky Ponting, who scored 45 on the opening day, up close. For a report from the game, visit our website.

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SWING HIGH: Darren Stevens (left) played aggressively for the Spitfires, but it was in vain as Marcus Trescothick (right) orchestrated a seven-wicket win for the Somerset Sabres



Trescothick gives Spitfires masterclass in Twenty20

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

A BELOW-par performance from the Kent Spitfires resulted in them missing out on a third straight Twenty20 Cup final and with it the potential riches of the Champions League.

A seven-wicket defeat in the semi-final, orchestrated by Somerset Sabres' former England opener Marcus Trescothick, on Saturday saw the Spitfires exit the competition with a whimper. It also meant the club missed out on the chance to compete for £3.6 million in the inaugural Champions League against the best Twenty20 sides from the likes of Australia, South Africa and New Zealand at the event to be staged in India during October.

The loss of all-rounder Ryan McLaren was the first blow of the afternoon as the South African failed to shake off a side-strain picked up in a championship game earlier in the

month. It left skipper Rob Key with a decision to play either fast bowler Amjad Khan or left-arm spinner Rob Ferley. The Kent captain opted for the pace and experience of Khan, but the selection backfired when the England quick bowler conceded 16 runs in his opening over.

It was the worst possible start for the Spitfires, who had earlier scored a competitive 145-5, thanks largely to a typically aggressive 77 in 51 balls from Darren Stevens. The Spitfires had slumped to 32-3 from their opening six overs, but Stevens clawed back the impetus with a fine knock that included taking 20 from the final over of the innings.

His efforts proved to be in vain, however, as Trescothick took a liking to the Kent attack,

which included overseas fast bowler Wayne Parnell. The Somerset opener got the innings off to a flier, smashing 56 from just 32 balls to set up a comfortable win for the men from Taunton, who galloped home with seven balls to spare.

The Sabres scored 71-0 from the first six overs, compared with Kent's 32-3 and that, according to Key, was the big difference between the two sides.

"You have got to start well and be right on the money and we weren't," he said. "We conceded 16 off the first over and we probably bowled a bit too wide and a bit too full."

"It was the story of the first six, really. We did not bat well enough in the first six, but I think with 145 if we had a decent bowling show it might have been different."

"It is not an easy wicket to bat on. They bowled full and straight and did it, while we bowled full and wide and from that stage we were always clawing it back."



WELL BEATEN: Wayne Wilson and Margate were always up against it away to Sutton and having a player sent off didn't help boss Terry Yorath's cause as Gate were soundly beaten



Picture: Dave Stewart

Ten-man Gate never in it once Sutton hit their stride

MARGATE began the Ryman Premier season in the same way they finished the last campaign – with a heavy away defeat.

Travelling to Sutton to play one of the division's pre-season favourites was always going to be a tall order and it was made doubly difficult when midfielder Aaron Lacy was given his marching orders in the first half.

With more signings in the pipeline, Gate started without the suspended Danny Young and with Sam Cliff preferred to last season's top-scorer Kenny Pratt in attack.

The opening 15 minutes gave little insight to the Margate capitulation that was to follow, with the home side failing to settle.

However, they did settle when 18-year-old Stefan Payne picked up a ball on the edge of the Margate box before beating his marker and firing into the corner of the net.

The home side doubled their lead from a free-kick courtesy of Sam Gargan's 25-yarder that flew low into the Margate goal.

Gate then had a good shout for a penalty

FOOTBALL

BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

Sutton United 4

Payne 14, 53, 58 pen, Gargan 31

Margate 0

turned down when a Sutton defender appeared to handle a cross.

Margate's afternoon then took a turn for the worse when Lacy was dismissed for foul and abusive language with ten minutes of the half remaining.

Two goals and a man down, the task looked beyond the Blues.

In the opening quarter-hour of the second half, Sutton doubled their half-time advantage to put the game well beyond their visitors.

Gargan again found his strike partner Payne, who showed a turn of pace to put himself in a

Margate starting XI



Subs used: Pratt (Wheatley 46), Lombardo (Cliff 82)

position to beat the advancing Stuart Robinson for his second goal.

Payne wrapped up an opening day hat-trick from the spot when Margate's Ben Lewis was adjudged to have handled the ball in the box.

New signing Lloyd Blackman had two late efforts when he firstly lobbed Kevin Scriven in the Sutton goal with the ball falling just over the bar and then hitting a curling shot that flew just over the bar.

Blues were back in action against Dartford last night. For a report and reaction, visit www.yourthanet.co.uk.

CRICKET ROUND-UP



Picture: Nick Kipp

NO CHANCE: Broadstairs's (bowling) poor innings made the job virtually impossible for their bowlers against Sibton Park

Calamity with bat blights Broadstairs

A POOR display with the bat led to Broadstairs going down by five wickets at Sibton Park at the weekend.

The Thanet side were bowled out for a less-than-impressive 72 inside 39 overs, with just David Cooper (18) and Scott Narraway (18) reaching double figures for Broadstairs.

Bowlers Bradley Ellison and Chris Kidd did the best they could in trying to defend such a meagre target, but in the end, despite a wobble, Sibton Park scrambled home in 21 overs. Ellison finished with three for 35, while Kidd took two for 28.

The club's second XI fared little better against Sibton II. Sibton scored a massive 292 for six but had to settle for a winning draw as they failed to pluck out the final wicket, Broadstairs reaching 184 for nine.

Competitive

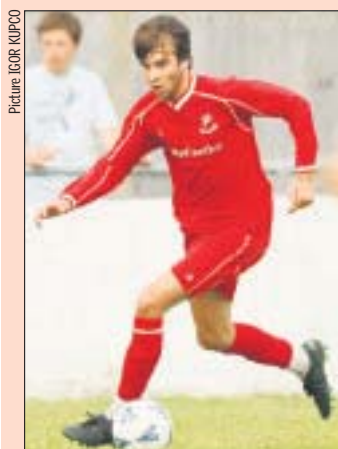
In Kent Feeder League 1A, Westgate-on-Sea almost pulled off a shock win against title-chasers Cowdrey before eventually going down by 33 runs.

Cowdrey scored a competitive 272 for five from their 46 overs, but a 142-run partnership between Keith and Nick Sandwell looked to have given Westgate the platform to go on and win the game.

However, when they both departed, going for the win wasn't on the agenda as they lost quick wickets, before finishing on 239 for eight.

In the battle of Thanet in Division 1E, Margate came out on top in their clash with St Margaret's. Oliver Robinson hit 96 and Neil Canham an unbeaten 50 in Margate's total of 263 for three.

Robinson then capped a man-of-the-match performance with figures of five for 59 to help bowl out St Margaret's for 177 and hand victory to Margate by 86 runs.



EARLY BATH: Sam Jones was sent off after just nine minutes against Fleet Town

Mighty Quinn seals Rams win

Ramsgate 1 Fleet Town 0

NEW signing Liam Quinn helped Ramsgate get their season off to a good start with a win against fellow promotion contenders Fleet Town.

The home side didn't make life easy for themselves, though, when winger Sam Jones, who returned to the club at the start of pre-season from Dover Athletic, was given his marching orders as early as the ninth minute.

Jones and Town's Tyron Smith had a heated exchange after the Ramsgate player was hauled down by Smith, leaving the referee with no other choice than to send the pair off in the first half.

FOOTBALL

With both sides down to ten men, the game looked as though it was heading towards a draw – that was until Quinn produced a piece of magic to ensure it was Jim Ward's side who picked up the three points.

The midfielder, a summer signing from fellow Ryman South side Whitstable Town, picked the ball up in the 76th minute before smashing an unstoppable shot that rocketed into the net from fully 30 yards.

It got worse for the visitors, who are managed by former England winger Andy Sinton, when left-

back Tom Bird was shown a second yellow card.

Elsewhere at the club, Rams boss Jim Ward has signed former Ebbsfleet United goalkeeper Sam Mott as cover for the injured Shaun Alliston.

After Alliston suffered an injury to a hand, Ward managed to get cover by signing Mott, who spent the majority of pre-season at Ryman Premier League side Dartford.

The 21-year-old, who was released by Ebbsfleet at the end of last season, made his debut for the Rams in Saturday's game.

The Rams were at Whyteleafe last night. For a full report, visit www.yourthanet.co.uk.

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